

## 5673.0.55.003 - Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2008-09

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## Main Features

#### MAIN FEATURES

##### Introduction

Trends in Average Wages and Salaries, 2003-04 to 2008-09  
Regional Variations in Average Annual Growth Rates

#### INTRODUCTION

This article and the accompanying data are provided to support analyses of local economic conditions for regions throughout Australia. The data are produced by the ABS using personal income tax (PIT) information from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Wage and salary statistics in this issue are presented for the years 2003-04 to 2008-09 on a range of geographic levels.

There has been a change in the occupational classification used for 2008-09, discussed further in the section 'Changes in Occupational Classification in 2008-09'. There are also breaks in series, discussed further in the section 'Series Breaks'.

Changes in taxation policy can occur in any income year and can, for example, influence whether an individual needs to lodge a tax return, and what is required to be reported on the tax form. Breaks in the ABS series associated with changes of this type can impact on some year-to-year comparisons, however there are still a range of regional analyses able to be undertaken, including:

- analysing the regional differences in Wage and salary earners and income in any given year;
- analysing the growth rate of Wage and salary income between years but not including any year affected by series breaks.

In 2008-09, around 9.7 million Australians derived income from Wages and salaries. Over \$453 billion - over 80% of all income earned by Australian taxpayers - was earned from Wages and salaries in 2008-09. As the economic well-being of most Australians is largely determined by the amount of income they receive, analysing geographical variations in Wages and salaries - and how these change over time - can provide valuable information about relative advantage and disadvantage in regions and the nature of regional economies in general. Wealth is also an important contributor to economic well-being; some people on low incomes may have property and business assets to draw on, whilst others on high incomes may also have high levels of debt.

The data presented in this article can be used to explore questions such as:

- have average incomes from Wages and salaries increased over time, and if so by how much?
- which regions experienced higher growth in average Wages and salaries income compared to others?
- have average incomes from Wages and salaries increased at higher rates in capital city areas compared with regions outside capital cities?
- which regions with high average incomes from Wages and salaries also experienced high growth rates in Wages and salaries?
- which regions with low average incomes experienced high growth rates in Wages and salaries?

This article illustrates ways that Wage and salary data can be used to explore regional variations in income. Further analysis of regional incomes can be undertaken using the data contained in the spreadsheets in the Downloads tab of this release.

The statistics have been compiled using aggregated individual income tax data from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) wishes to acknowledge the invaluable support of the ATO in compiling these statistics.

### Series Breaks

There are two breaks in series, which means that some of the data is not able to be compared over time for some selected years.

In 2007-08, a one-off tax bonus was introduced as part of the Economic Stimulus Package in response to the Global Financial Crisis. The bonus was available to all individuals whose 2007-08 taxable income was \$100,000 or less, whose adjusted tax liability was greater than zero and who had filed their 2007-08 tax return by 30 June 2009. The ATO has reported in their *Taxation Statistics* publication that there was a 7.1% increase in individual tax lodgements for the 2007-08 financial year, in part due to individual lodgements being brought forward to access the tax bonus. This was followed by a fall of 2.8% in individual tax lodgements in 2008-09.

In the ABS series, the number of Wage and salary earners increased by 8.1%, from 9.3 million in 2006-07 to 10.1 million in 2007-08, before falling 3.3% to 9.7 million in 2008-09. Income derived from Wages and salaries increased by 12.8% (\$50.3 billion) between 2006-07 and 2007-08, but rose by only 2.6% (\$11.3 billion) from 2007-08 to 2008-09.

This means there is a break in series between 2006-07 and 2007-08 and another break between 2007-08 and 2008-09.

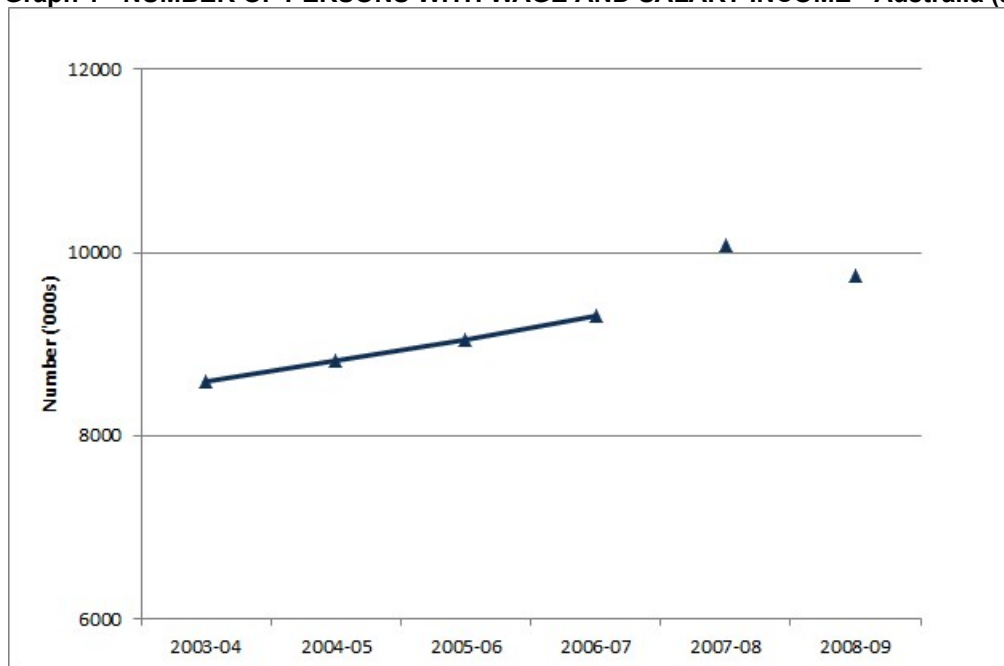
### Impacts of Series Breaks on Data Analysis

Analysis of the change in the number of individuals and in total Wage and salary income can be made between any year in the series except for 2007-08. However, average Wage and salary income in 2007-08 can be used for analysis, although some care should be exercised when doing so. If the changes in Wage and salary income and the number of individuals associated with a particular event are in similar proportions, then the average is not materially affected. Data for Australia shows that from 2003-04 to 2007-08 income from Wages and salaries grew by a larger proportion each year than the number of Wage and salary earners, leading to a rise in average income from Wages and salaries in this period. In 2008-09, Wage and salary income rose by a small proportion, but the number of Wage and salary earners fell, resulting in a further increase in average Wage and salary income. Users should exercise some caution in analysing average Wage and salary incomes for regions in 2007-08, however, as

the changes associated with the tax bonus may not be equally distributed across areas (for example, different effects may be seen in regions with large numbers of low income earners).

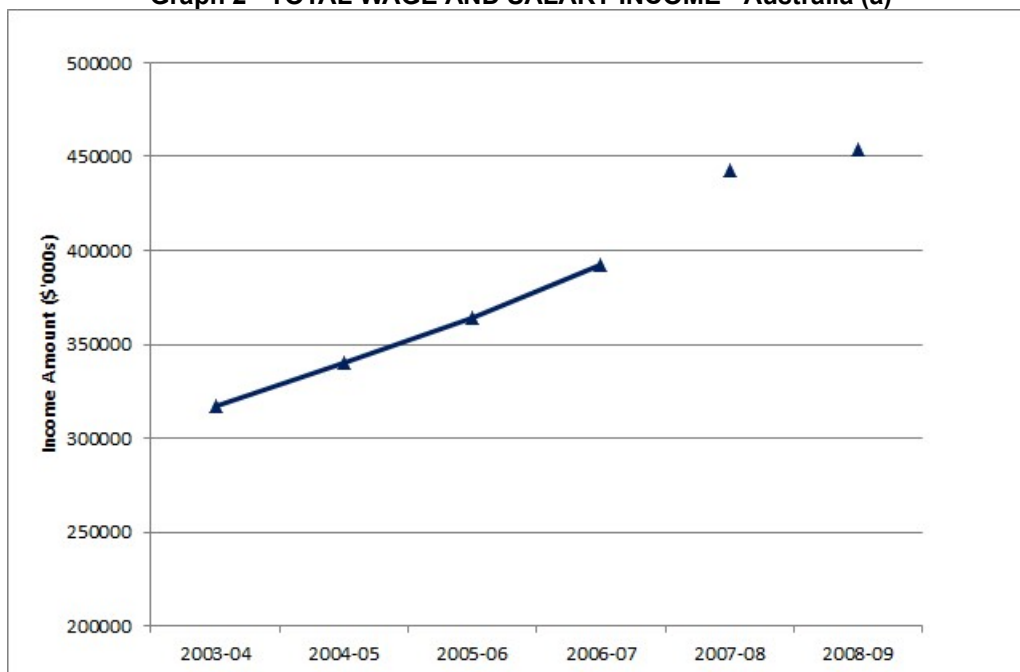
The impacts of breaks in series are illustrated in the following graphs. Graphs 1 and 2 show series breaks in persons and total income for Wages and salaries. There has not been a series break in average Wage and salary income in 2007-08 (Graph 3).

**Graph 1 - NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH WAGE AND SALARY INCOME - Australia (a)**



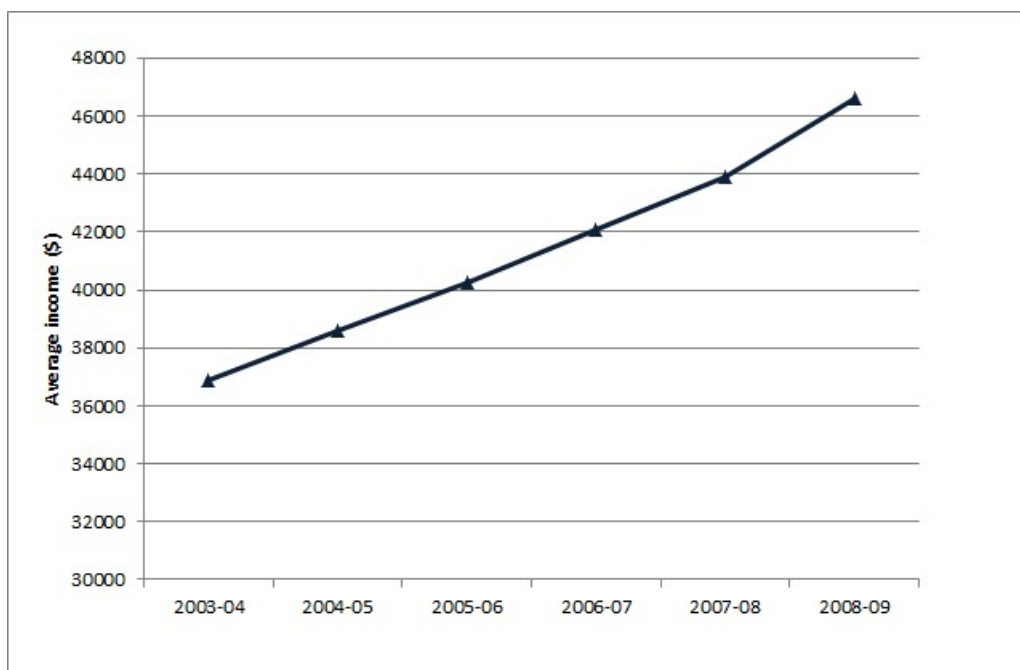
(a) Breaks in series between 2006-07 and 2007-08 and between 2007-08 and 2008-09

**Graph 2 - TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME - Australia (a)**



(a) Breaks in series between 2006-07 and 2007-08 and between 2007-08 and 2008-09

**Graph 3 - AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOME - Australia (a)**



#### Changes in Occupation Classification in 2008-09

In addition to the breaks in series associated with the one-off tax bonus, there has been a change in the classification used by the ATO to code occupation data. In 2009 the ATO moved from using the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) to the Australian and New Zealand Standard of Occupations (ANZSCO). The occupation categories for 2008-09 presented in this issue are not therefore comparable to those featured for 2003-04 to 2007-08 in previous issues of this product.

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### TRENDS IN AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, 2003-04 TO 2008-09

On average, Australians earned \$46,599 in Wages and salaries in 2008-09; up from \$43,921 in the previous year. Table 1 shows that the Australian Capital Territory had the highest average annual income from Wages and salaries in each year between 2003-04 and 2008-09, recording \$54,747 in 2008-09.

From 2003-04 to 2008-09, the average annual growth rate in average Wage and salary income in Australia was 4.8%.

Western Australia recorded the highest growth rate of average annual Wages and salaries between 2003-04 and 2008-09 (6.9%), followed by Queensland (5.6%). The high growth rate for Western Australia resulted in that state having the second highest average annual Wage and salary income in 2008-09 (\$50,438), moving up from fifth highest in 2003-04 (overtaking New South Wales, which had held second place up until 2007-08).

For most States and Territories, and for Australia as a whole, average annual growth rates for regions outside of capital cities either matched or were slightly higher than those for capital city statistical divisions (SDs), although average annual incomes were considerably higher in capital city SDs.

**Table 1. AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGES AND SALARIES - By State and Territory, 2003-04 to 2008-09**

	Average Wage and Salary Income						Average Annual Growth Rate
	2003-04 \$	2004-05 \$	2005-06 \$	2006-07 \$	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	%
<b>New South Wales</b>	<b>39 648</b>	<b>41 433</b>	<b>43 032</b>	<b>44 850</b>	<b>46 513</b>	<b>48 793</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Sydney SD	42 811	44 799	46 425	48 428	50 136	52 325	4.1
Balance NSW	33 360	34 774	36 307	37 717	39 114	41 600	4.5
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>36 882</b>	<b>38 421</b>	<b>39 861</b>	<b>41 260</b>	<b>42 782</b>	<b>45 246</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Melbourne SD	38 762	40 368	41 840	43 302	44 837	47 351	4.1
Balance Vic	31 412	32 720	34 041	35 188	36 478	38 830	4.3
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>33 965</b>	<b>35 655</b>	<b>37 680</b>	<b>39 735</b>	<b>41 687</b>	<b>44 501</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Brisbane SD	35 775	37 461	39 597	41 720	43 893	46 814	5.5
Balance Qld	32 243	33 944	35 879	37 867	39 586	42 311	5.6
<b>South Australia</b>	<b>33 623</b>	<b>35 061</b>	<b>36 357</b>	<b>37 830</b>	<b>39 492</b>	<b>41 896</b>	<b>4.5</b>

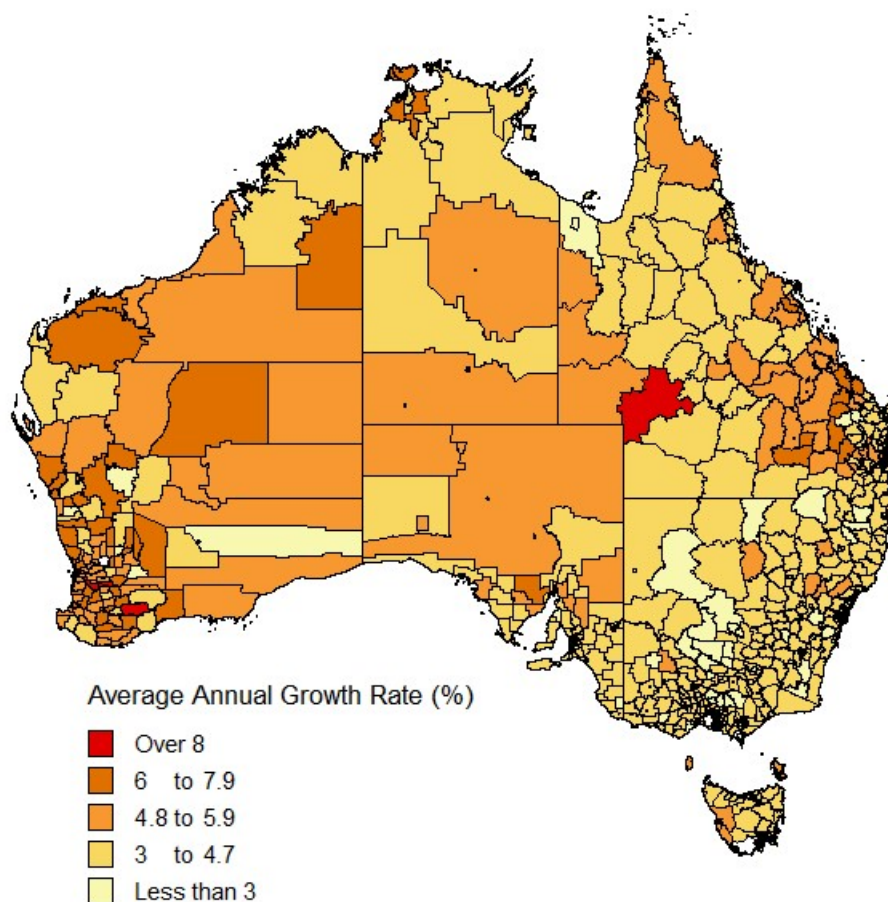
Adelaide SD	34 728	36 229	37 521	38 936	40 546	43 056	4.4
Balance SA	30 357	31 586	32 894	34 534	36 302	38 418	4.8
<b>Western</b>	<b>36 048</b>	<b>38 219</b>	<b>40 575</b>	<b>43 226</b>	<b>46 199</b>	<b>50 438</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Australia</b>							
Perth SD	36 523	38 712	41 095	43 785	46 804	51 125	7.0
Balance WA	34 553	36 679	38 932	41 428	44 266	48 238	6.9
<b>Tasmania</b>	<b>31 358</b>	<b>32 467</b>	<b>33 903</b>	<b>35 288</b>	<b>36 874</b>	<b>39 398</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Greater Hobart SD	33 021	34 118	35 660	37 065	38 563	41 435	4.6
SD							
Balance Tas	30 091	31 199	32 527	33 898	35 541	37 808	4.7
<b>Northern</b>	<b>37 665</b>	<b>40 016</b>	<b>41 589</b>	<b>43 027</b>	<b>45 216</b>	<b>48 049</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Territory</b>							
Darwin SD	39 437	42 222	43 723	45 014	47 298	50 189	4.9
Balance NT	34 466	35 983	37 618	39 278	41 251	43 986	5.0
<b>ACT</b>	<b>42 834</b>	<b>45 922</b>	<b>47 061</b>	<b>49 116</b>	<b>51 387</b>	<b>54 747</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Canberra SD	42 841	45 932	47 071	49 122	51 393	54 756	5.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>36 889</b>	<b>38 607</b>	<b>40 276</b>	<b>42 081</b>	<b>43 921</b>	<b>46 599</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<i>All Capital Cities</i>	39 112	40 939	42 620	44 495	46 397	49 111	4.7
<i>Balance of Australia</i>	32 452	33 963	35 615	37 259	38 902	41 532	5.1

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## REGIONAL VARIATIONS IN AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATES

Which Statistical Local Areas (SLA) experienced the highest growth in average Wage and Salary income between 2003-04 and 2008-09? Map 1 shows considerable variation in average annual growth rates across Australia.

**Map 1. GROWTH OF AVERAGE INCOME FROM WAGES AND SALARIES - By Statistical Local Areas, Australia, 2003-04 to 2008-09**



The majority of SLAs with the highest average annual growth rate of average Wage and salary income between 2003-04 and 2008-09 were located in Western Australia and Queensland. In Western Australia, these included inland and coastal SLAs surrounding Perth that offered semi-rural or rural lifestyles within 2-3 hours drive of the city (e.g. the SLAs of Wandering, Cuballing and Boddington) and also the remote mining area of Ravensthorpe in the state's south east. However, the number of Wage and salary earners in Ravensthorpe fell 26% between 2007-08

and 2008-09 (down from 835 to 617), while average Wage and salary income dropped by over 8% over the same period. This coincided with the closure of the Ravensthorpe nickel mine in 2009.

In Queensland, many of the areas of highest growth were associated with emerging energy resource sectors (e.g. Dalby-Chinchilla in the state's Western Downs region). Other SLAs with high growth rates were located in Queensland's Central Highlands and in Mackay (which contains much of the region's engineering, manufacturing and mining services industries).

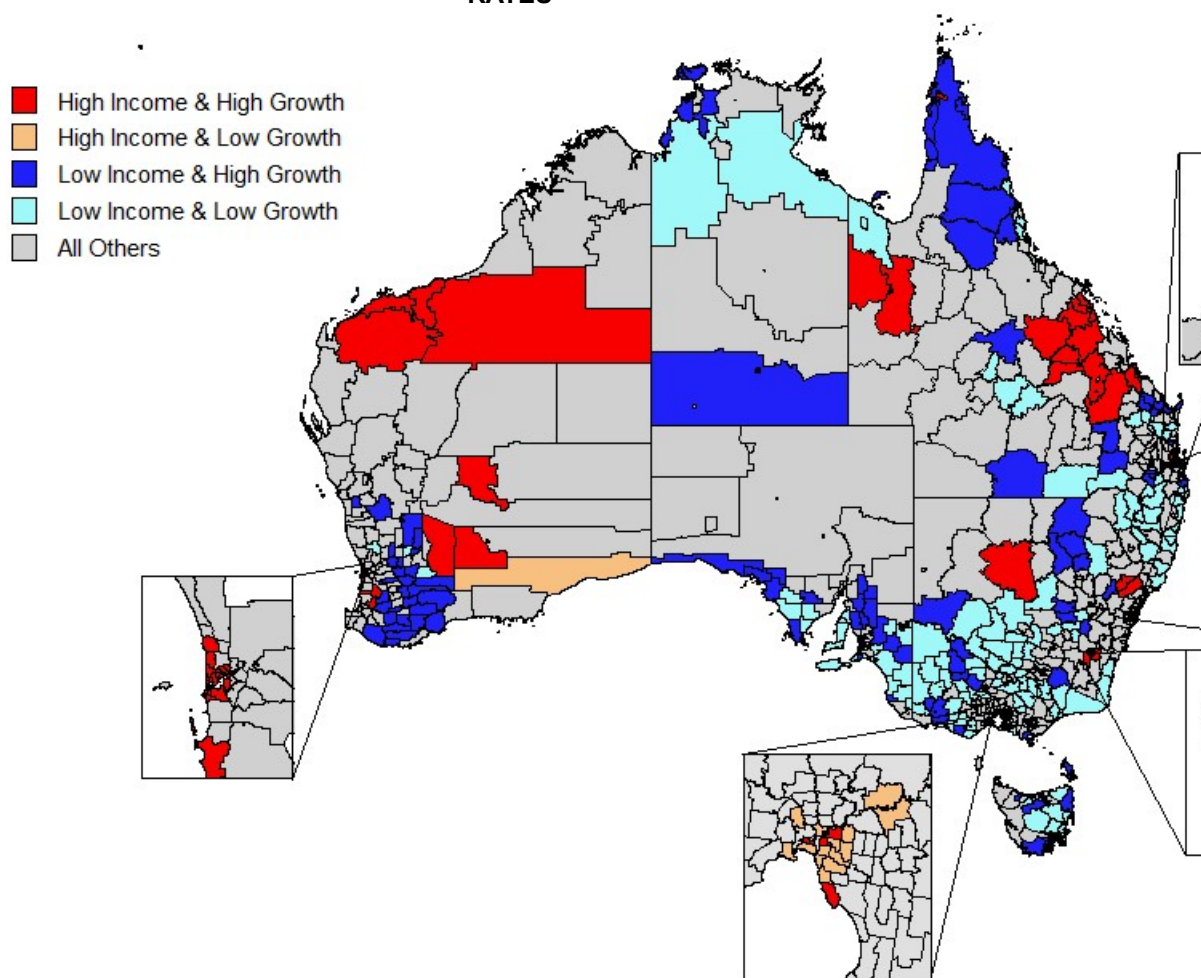
However, high growth rates do not necessarily equate to high incomes. For example, while the SLA of Kojonup (in Western Australia's wheatbelt) experienced an 8% average annual increase in average Wage and salary income between 2003-04 and 2008-09, by the end of the period the average annual income in the area was just \$33,852 (well below the national average of \$46,599). Some SLAs with high average Wage and salary incomes experienced low average annual growth rates, while other regions recorded both low incomes and low growth rates in average Wages and salaries.

Map 2 presents a geographical distribution of all SLAs in Australia that fall into each of the following five categories:

- high income and high growth;
- high income and low growth;
- low income and high growth;
- low income and low growth;
- and all other regions.

SLAs were grouped according to whether their average annual incomes in 2008-09 fell in the top or bottom 20% of SLAs (i.e. were above \$50,979 or below \$35,966) and whether their average annual growth rate in average Wages and salaries was above or below the Australian rate of 4.8% between 2003-04 and 2008-09.

**Map 2. STATISTICAL LOCAL AREAS BY AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOME 2008-09 AND GROWTH RATES**



Regions with high average annual incomes and high average annual growth rates include SLAs in most capital



cities (particularly the metropolitan areas of Brisbane, Perth and Sydney) and remote mining areas in Western Australia and Queensland. Regions with low average annual incomes and high average annual growth rates include: Far North Queensland; SLAs north-east and south-east of Perth; and SLAs in the mid-north and west coast of South Australia.

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## New South Wales



### NEW SOUTH WALES

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Top Average Wage and Salary Income Regions, 2008-09

Average Wage and Salary Incomes in the Sydney Statistical Division, 2008-09

Number of Wage and Salary Earners by Income Range, 2003-04 to 2008-09

### TOP AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOME REGIONS, 2008-09

This section focuses on the five SLAs in Sydney Statistical Division (SD) and New South Wales - Balance with the highest average Wage and salary incomes in 2008-09.

#### TOP AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, NEW SOUTH WALES, 2008-09

		Average Annual Wage and Salary Income						Average Annual Growth Rate
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	%
Top 5 SLAs (a)		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Sydney SD	Mosman (A)	82,001	88,300	93,645	106,397	109,491	105,954	5.3
	Woollahra (A)	66,611	72,418	75,520	85,225	85,462	84,217	4.8
	Hunters Hill (A)	64,293	72,529	78,225	77,798	77,873	79,920	4.4
	Ku-ring-gai (A)	61,943	65,452	67,516	71,371	73,484	78,066	4.7
	North Sydney (A)	62,997	66,534	68,788	72,939	75,055	77,972	4.4
Sydney SD		42,811	44,799	46,425	48,428	50,136	52,325	4.1
Balance of NSW	Singleton (A)	45,226	46,072	48,918	51,804	53,069	58,842	5.4
	Muswellbrook (A)	42,085	43,780	46,174	48,042	49,555	54,309	5.2
	Queanbeyan (C)	40,966	44,040	45,455	48,213	50,599	53,602	5.5
	Cobar (A)	41,264	42,604	44,202	46,343	50,030	53,170	5.2
	Palerang (A) - Pt A	40,711	43,105	45,353	47,337	49,498	52,790	5.3
Balance NSW (b)		33,360	34,774	36,307	37,717	39,114	41,600	4.5
New South Wales		39,648	41,433	43,032	44,850	46,513	48,793	4.2

(a) Top 5 SLAs exclude regions with less than 100 Wage and salary earners

(b) Excludes SLA 'NSW Unknown'

The SLA of Mosman (A), on Sydney's northern shore, had the highest average Wage and salary income in New South Wales - and Australia - in 2008-09 (\$105,954). It recorded a 5.3% average annual increase in average Wage and salary income between 2003-04 and 2008-09, although in 2008-09 average Wage and salary income in this SLA actually fell - by around 3% - compared to the previous financial year. Woollahra (in Sydney's east) also recorded a slight fall in average Wage and salary income in 2008-09, but remains the SLA with the city's second highest average Wage and salary income. Hunters Hill (on the lower north shore), Ku-ring-gai (in Sydney's north) and North Sydney round out the top five, recording average Wage and salary incomes greater than \$77,000 in 2008-09.

Outside the Sydney Statistical Division, the SLA of Singleton (A) had the highest average Wages and salary income of \$58,842 in 2008-09. Singleton, together with the SLA of Muswellbrook (A), are located in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales. Both areas have strong industrial sectors based on coal mining and electricity generation.

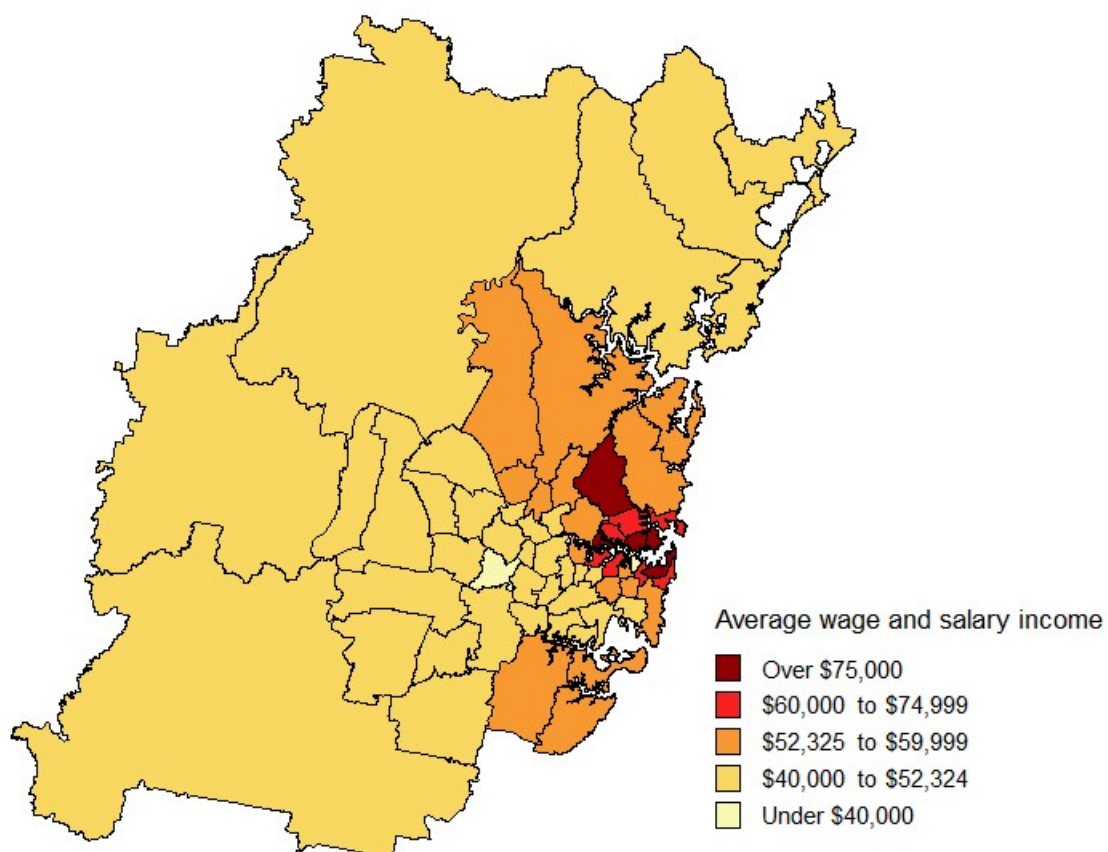
The economy of Cobar (A) - in North Western SD - is built around its copper, zinc, lead, silver and gold mining industries.

Queanbeyan and Palerang (Pt A), whilst located in New South Wales, are both within commuting distance of the nation's capital, Canberra.

### **AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOMES IN THE SYDNEY STATISTICAL DIVISION, 2008-09**

The following map shows geographical variations in average Wage and salary incomes within the Sydney Statistical Division in 2008-09.

#### **AVERAGE INCOME FROM WAGES AND SALARIES - By Statistical Local Area, Sydney Statistical Division, 2008-09**



### **NUMBER OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS BY INCOME RANGE, 2003-04 TO 2008-09**

The following animated graph shows the number of Wage and salary earners (male and female) by income range in each financial year, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (click on the play button to move through the years) . To find data for other states or territories, or for Australia, use the 'Switch Dataset' box to make your selection.





**Source(s):** New South Wales; Victoria; Queensland; South Australia; Western Australia; Tasmania; Northern Territory; Australian Capital Territory; Australia

## Victoria



### VICTORIA

On this page:

Top Average Wage and Salary Income Regions, 2008-09

Average Wage and Salary Incomes in the Melbourne Statistical Division, 2008-09

Number of Wage and Salary Earners by Income Range, 2003-04 to 2008-09

### TOP AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOME REGIONS, 2008-09

This section focuses on the five SLAs in Melbourne Statistical Division (SD) and Victoria - Balance with the highest average Wage and salary incomes in 2008-09.

#### TOP AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, VICTORIA, 2008-09

Average Annual Wage and Salary Income								Average Annual Growth Rate
Top 5 SLAs (a)		2003-04 \$	2004-05 \$	2005-06 \$	2006-07 \$	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	%
Melbourne SD	Bayside (C) - Brighton	58,526	62,022	63,948	66,283	67,529	71,028	3.9
	Port Phillip (C) - West	55,578	58,945	61,327	63,445	66,850	70,030	4.7
	Boroondara (C) - Kew	50,911	54,800	56,938	59,474	60,599	64,386	4.8

	Stonnington (C)	52,791	55,056	56,917	59,188	60,592	63,848	3.9
	- Malvern							
	Stonnington (C)	53,089	55,468	56,955	60,141	61,030	63,713	3.7
	- Prahran							
<i>Melbourne SD</i>		38,762	40,368	41,840	43,302	44,837	47,351	4.1
Balance of Vic	Macedon	40,402	42,459	43,773	45,386	47,064	50,610	4.6
	Ranges (S) Bal							
	Latrobe (C) -	37,825	39,157	41,181	43,026	45,905	48,044	4.9
	Traralgon							
	Newtown	39,071	40,661	42,254	43,538	44,010	46,740	3.6
	Macedon	37,497	39,075	40,900	42,050	42,897	46,038	4.2
	Ranges (S) -							
	Romsey							
	Greater	37,451	38,894	40,106	41,666	43,129	45,631	4.0
	Geelong (C) -							
	Pt C							
<i>Balance of Vic</i>		31,412	32,720	34,041	35,188	36,478	38,830	4.3
<i>(b)</i>								
<b>Victoria</b>		<b>36,882</b>	<b>38,421</b>	<b>39,861</b>	<b>41,260</b>	<b>42,782</b>	<b>45,246</b>	<b>4.2</b>

(a) Top 5 SLAs exclude regions with less than 100 Wage and salary earners

(b) Excludes SLA 'Vic Unknown'

The SLAs with the highest average Wage and salary incomes in Melbourne SD were located in areas around Port Philip Bay (incorporating the suburbs of Brighton, Port Melbourne and Albert Park) and the eastern suburbs of Prahran, Kew and Malvern.

Outside the Melbourne SD, the SLA with the highest average Wage and salary income was the Macedon Ranges (S) – Balance with \$50,610. This region offers a semi-rural lifestyle within commuting distance of Melbourne.

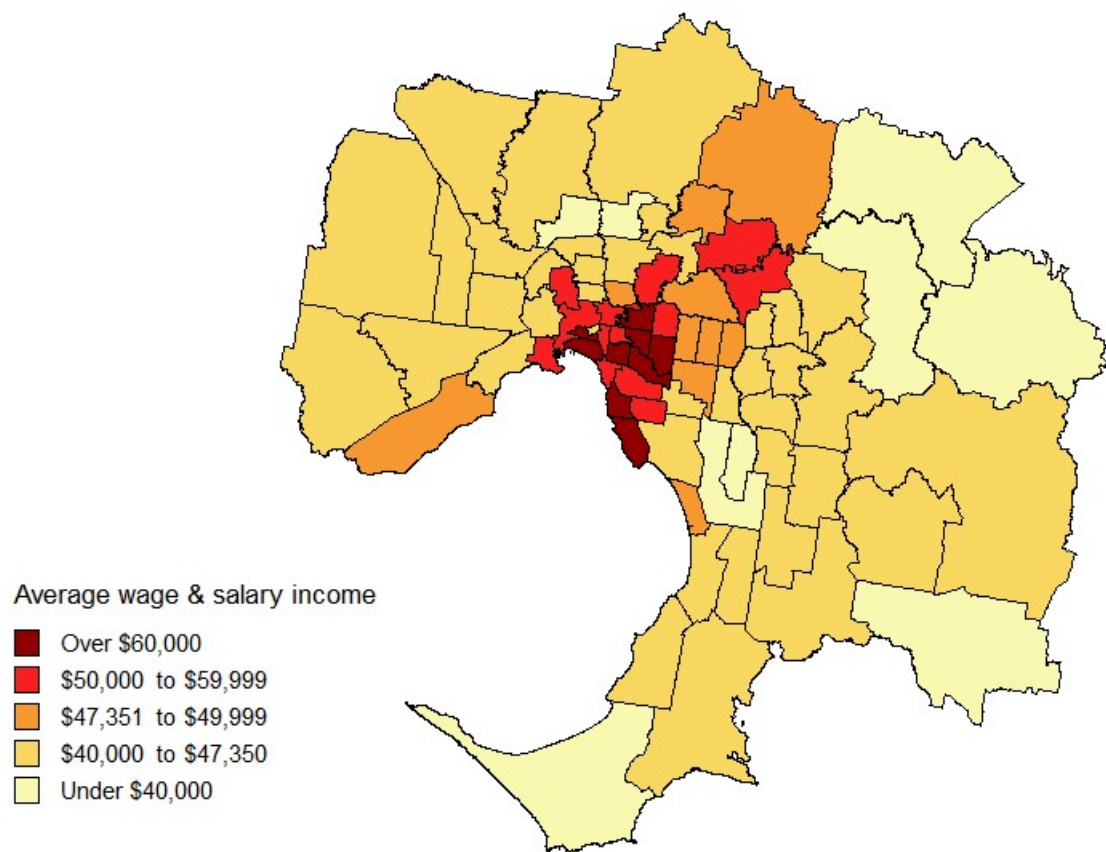
The SLA of Newtown is an inner residential suburb of Geelong, which is the largest provincial centre in Victoria and a manufacturing, transportation and service hub.

The SLA of Latrobe (C) - Traralgon is located in the State's Latrobe Valley, home of most of Victoria's power generation facilities and a paper mill.

#### **AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOMES IN THE MELBOURNE STATISTICAL DIVISION, 2008-09**

The following map shows geographical variations in average Wage and salary incomes within the Melbourne Statistical Division in 2008-09.

#### **AVERAGE INCOME FROM WAGES AND SALARIES - By Statistical Local Area, Melbourne Statistical Division, 2008-09**



#### NUMBER OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS BY INCOME RANGE, 2003-04 TO 2008-09

The following animated graph shows the number of Wage and salary earners (male and female) by income range in each financial year, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (click on the play button to move through the years) . To find data for other states or territories, or for Australia, use the 'Switch Dataset' box to make your selection.



**Source(s):** Victoria; New South Wales; Queensland; South Australia; Western Australia; Tasmania; Northern Territory; Australian Capital Territory; Australia

## Queensland



### QUEENSLAND

On this page:

Top Average Wage and Salary Income Regions, 2008-09

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Number of Wage and Salary Earners by Income Range, 2003-04 to 2008-09

### TOP AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOME REGIONS, 2008-09

This section focuses on the five SLAs in Brisbane Statistical Division (SD) and Queensland - Balance with the highest average Wage and salary incomes in 2008-09.

#### TOP AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, QUEENSLAND, 2008-09

		Average Annual Wage and Salary Income						Average Annual Growth Rate
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Top 5 SLAs (a)		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Brisbane SD	Balmoral	46,143	48,718	52,944	57,225	60,879	65,873	7.4
	Bulimba	46,141	48,703	52,965	57,229	60,866	65,868	7.4
	Hawthorne	46,154	48,708	52,959	57,229	60,883	65,865	7.4
	Hamilton	49,202	52,280	55,342	58,695	61,369	64,934	5.7
	Ascot	49,202	52,267	55,347	58,703	61,350	64,930	5.7
Brisbane SD		35,775	37,461	39,597	41,720	43,893	46,814	5.5

Balance of Qld	Isaac (R) - Broadsound	55,207	59,400	60,885	62,133	64,725	72,067	5.5
	Isaac (R) - Belyando	53,436	56,529	56,868	60,113	63,225	70,703	5.8
	Isaac (R) - Nebo	50,328	54,518	54,138	56,963	60,467	70,151	6.9
	Central Highlands (R) - Daringa	50,731	54,490	57,800	59,370	61,229	69,188	6.4
	Central Highlands (R) - Peak Downs	51,379	54,993	56,950	59,864	61,983	65,475	5.0
Balance of Qld (b)		32,243	33,944	35,879	37,867	39,586	42,311	5.6
<b>Queensland</b>		<b>33,965</b>	<b>35,655</b>	<b>37,680</b>	<b>39,735</b>	<b>41,687</b>	<b>44,501</b>	<b>5.6</b>

(a) Top 5 SLAs exclude regions with less than 100 Wage and salary earners

(b) Excludes SLA 'Qld Unknown'

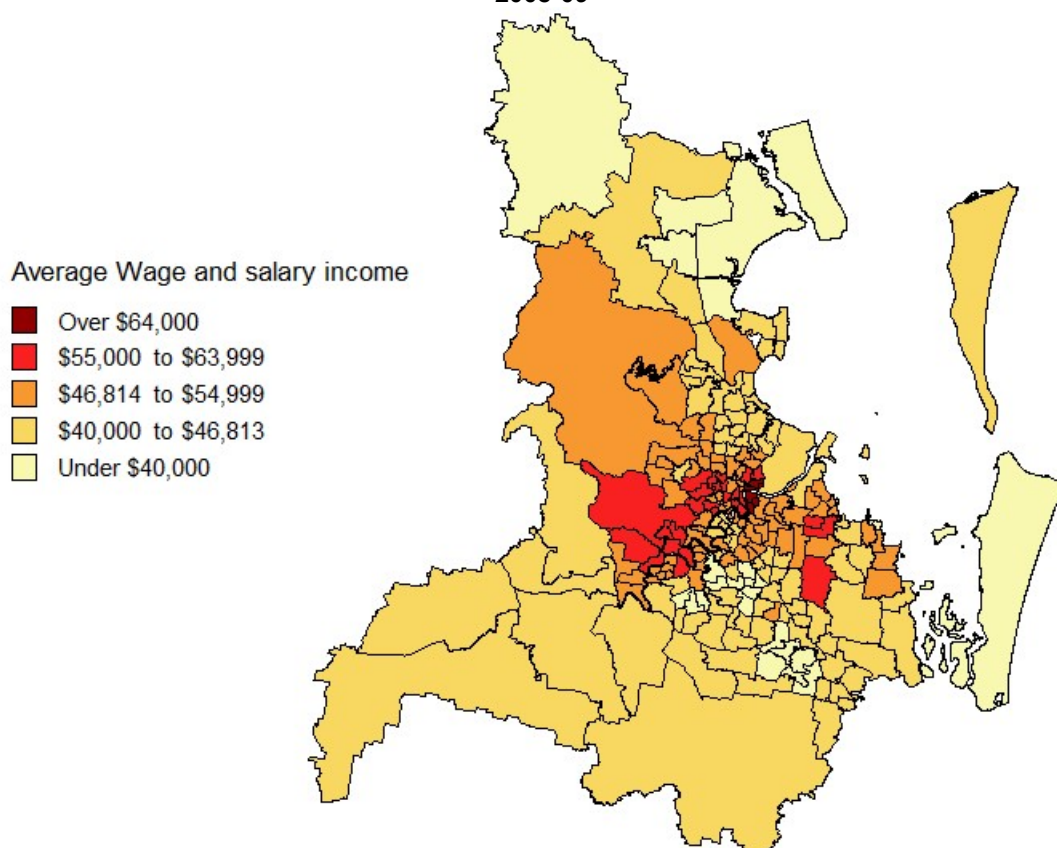
Regions with the State's highest average Wage and salary incomes were located outside the Brisbane SD. These were Isaac (R) - Broadsound (\$72,067), Isaac (R) - Belyando (\$70,703), and Isaac (R) - Nebo (\$70,151). The SLAs that constitute the Isaac Regional Council are located on the Central Coast of Queensland; an area characterised by a mix of industries, including coal mining, cattle grazing, sugar cane and grain farming. The SLAs within the Central Highlands region (e.g. Daringa and Peak Downs) have economic activities mainly involving coal mining, grain production and cattle farming.

Within the Brisbane SD, the SLAs with the highest average Wage and salary incomes were located immediately north and south of the Brisbane River. These included the inner northern areas of Hamilton and Ascot, and on the southern banks of the river, the SLAs of Balmoral, Bulimba and Hawthorne.

#### AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOMES IN THE BRISBANE STATISTICAL DIVISION, 2008-09

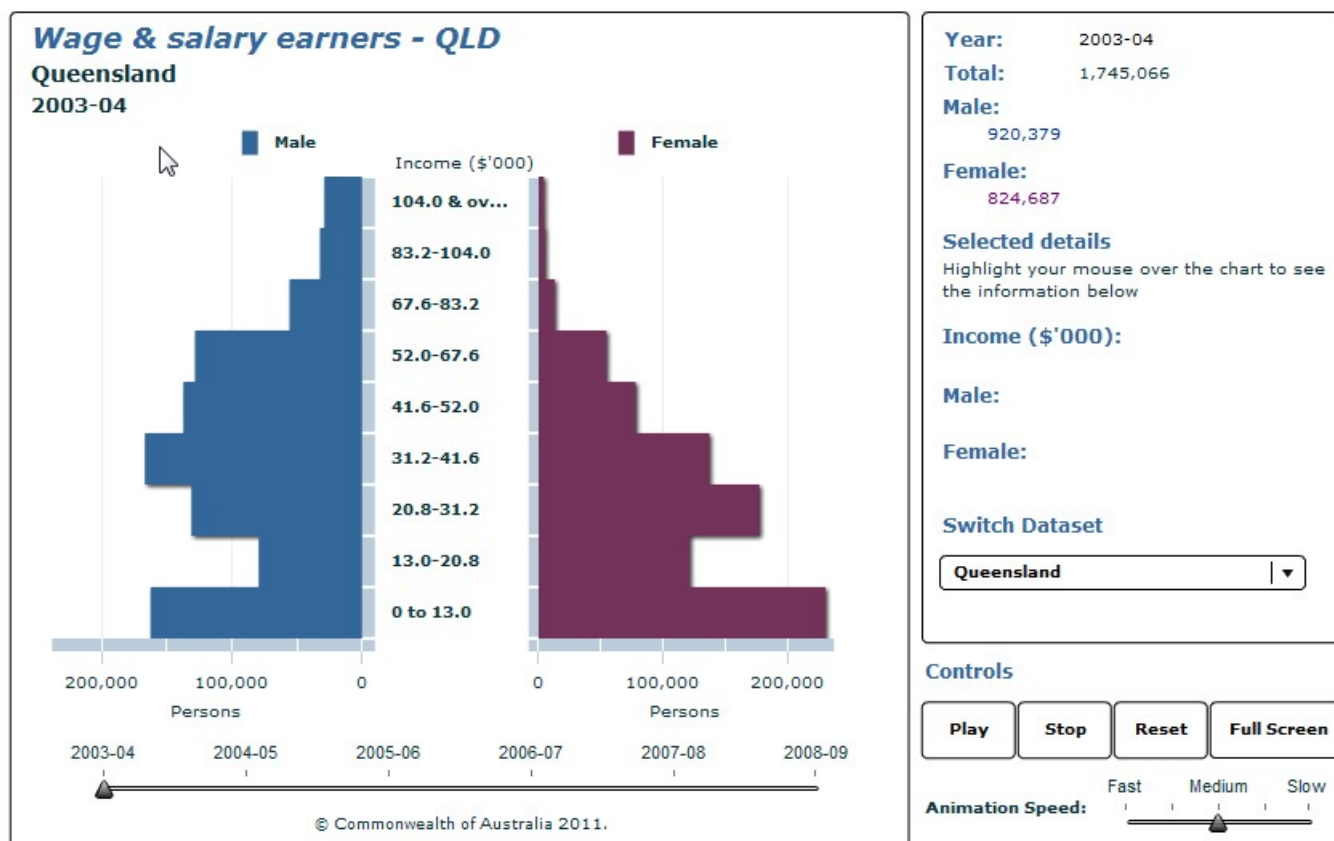
The following map shows geographical variations in average Wage and salary incomes within the Brisbane Statistical Division in 2008-09.

#### AVERAGE INCOME FROM WAGES AND SALARIES - By Statistical Local Area, Brisbane Statistical Division, 2008-09



## NUMBER OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS BY INCOME RANGE, 2003-04 TO 2008-09

The following animated graph shows the number of Wage and salary earners (male and female) by income range in each financial year, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (click on the play button to move through the years) . To find data for other states or territories, or for Australia, use the 'Switch Dataset' box to make your selection.



**Source(s):** Queensland; New South Wales; Victoria; South Australia; Western Australia; Tasmania; Northern Territory; Australian Capital Territory; Australia

## South Australia



### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

On this page:

Top Average Wage and Salary Income Regions, 2008-09

Average Wage and Salary Incomes in the Adelaide Statistical Division, 2008-09

Number of Wage and Salary Earners by Income Range, 2003-04 to 2008-09

## TOP AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOME REGIONS, 2008-09

This section focuses on the five SLAs in Adelaide Statistical Division (SD) and South Australia - Balance with the highest average Wage and salary incomes in 2008-09.

### TOP AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 2008-09



		Average Annual Wage and Salary Income					Average Annual Growth Rate	
Top 5 SLAs (a)		2003-04 \$	2004-05 \$	2005-06 \$	2006-07 \$	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	%
Adelaide SD	Unley (C) - East	42,725	44,661	46,673	48,268	50,115	54,066	4.8
	Burnside (C) - South-West	42,387	45,095	46,366	47,704	49,732	53,956	4.9
	Mitcham (C) - North-East	40,953	43,874	45,642	47,927	49,375	52,698	5.2
	Walkerville (M)	43,588	44,389	45,868	46,457	49,321	52,136	3.6
	Norw. P'ham St Ptrs (C) - West	41,224	43,289	45,192	46,363	47,777	51,836	4.7
	<i>Adelaide SD</i>	<i>34,728</i>	<i>36,229</i>	<i>37,521</i>	<i>38,936</i>	<i>40,546</i>	<i>43,056</i>	<i>4.4</i>
Balance of SA	Roxby Downs (M)	52,284	54,539	57,166	61,633	68,028	76,204	7.8
	Unincorp. Flinders Ranges	39,191	41,352	41,760	45,073	46,998	49,658	4.8
	Unincorp. Far North	36,592	37,588	39,116	43,043	46,842	48,995	6.0
	Whyalla (C)	37,160	38,843	40,585	43,338	45,825	48,528	5.5
	Port Augusta (C)	34,059	34,906	36,421	38,978	40,708	43,234	4.9
	<i>Balance of SA</i>	<i>30,357</i>	<i>31,586</i>	<i>32,894</i>	<i>34,534</i>	<i>36,302</i>	<i>38,418</i>	<i>4.8</i>
<i>(b)</i>								
<b>South Australia</b>		<b>33,623</b>	<b>35,061</b>	<b>36,357</b>	<b>37,830</b>	<b>39,492</b>	<b>41,896</b>	<b>4.5</b>

(a) Top 5 SLAs exclude regions with less than 100 Wage and salary earners

(b) Excludes SLA 'SA Unknown'

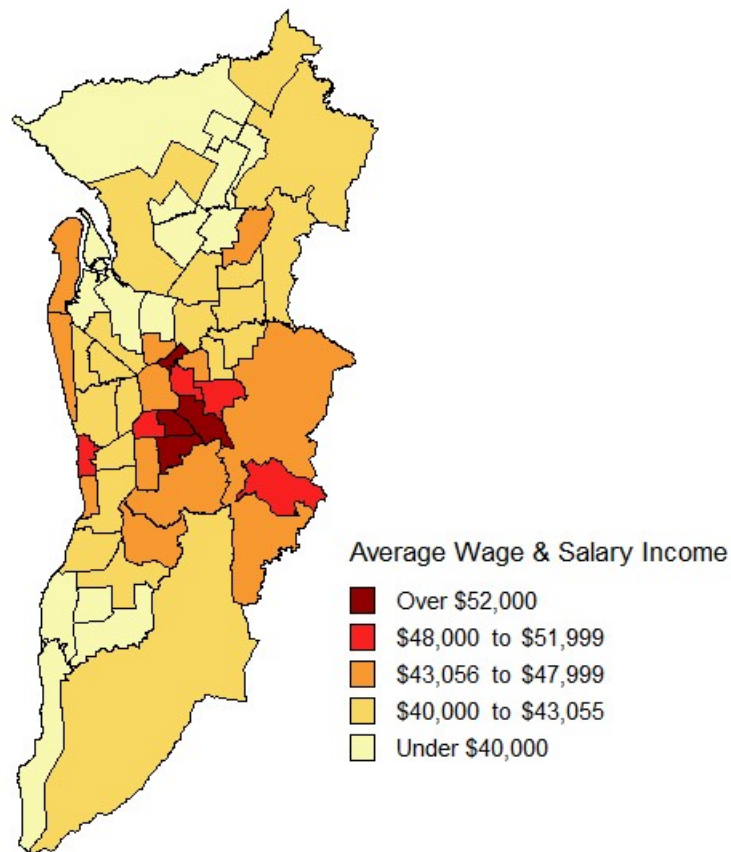
In each of the six years 2003-04 to 2008-09, Roxby Downs (M) - a mining area located in the Far North of South Australia - has recorded the highest average Wage and salary income in South Australia. This area services the Olympic Dam mine which produces copper, uranium, gold and silver. The vast geographic area that spans the north of the State (encompassing the Flinders Ranges and Far North Regions), and the major regional centres of Whyalla (C) and Port Augusta (C), make up the top five SLAs outside the Adelaide SD.

Within the Adelaide SD, SLAs with high average Wages and salaries include the inner metropolitan areas of Unley (C) - East and Mitcham (C) - North East in the south; Burnside (C) - South West and Norwood Payneham St Peters (C) - West in the city's east, and Walkerville (M) in the inner north.

## AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOMES IN THE ADELAIDE STATISTICAL DIVISION, 2008-09

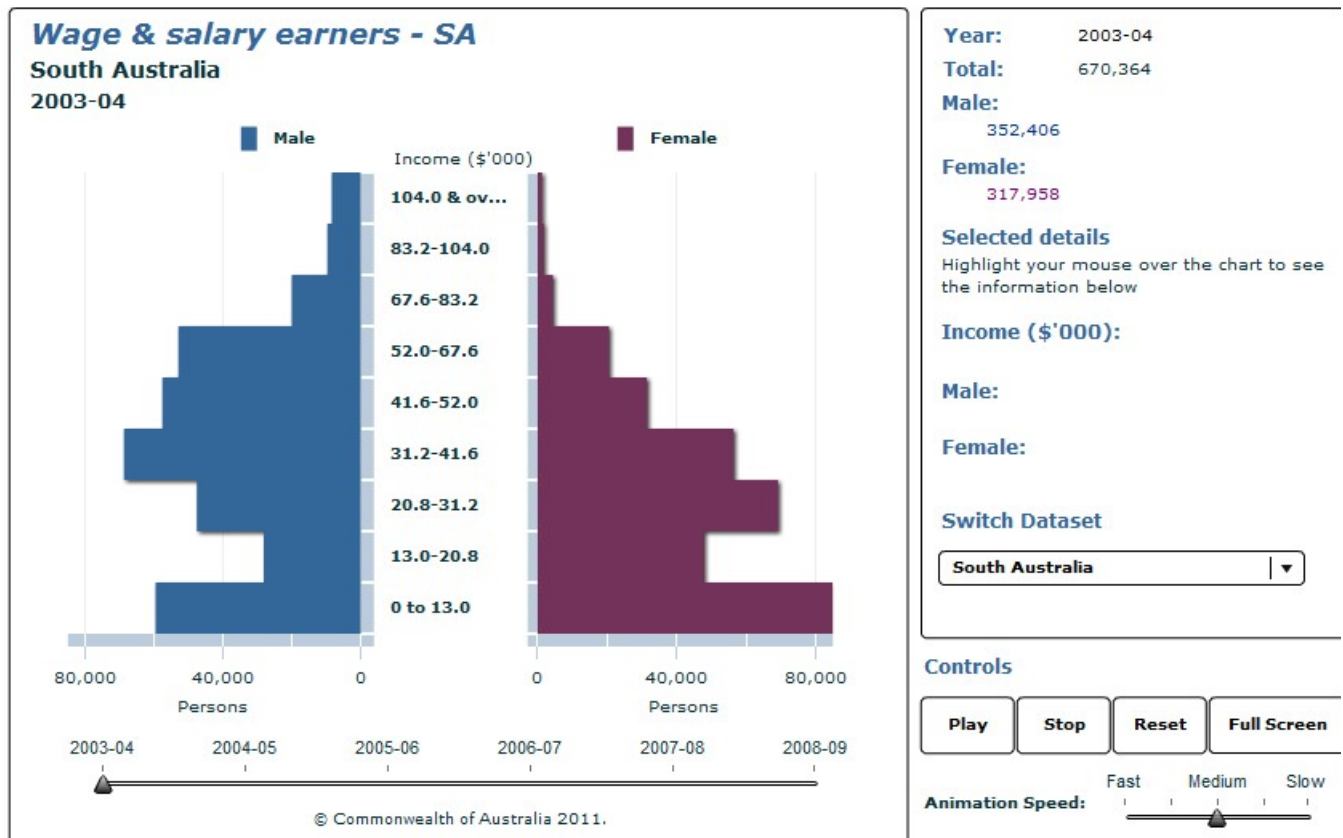
The following map shows geographical variations in average Wage and salary incomes within the Adelaide Statistical Division in 2008-09.

## AVERAGE INCOME FROM WAGES AND SALARIES - By Statistical Local Area, Adelaide Statistical Division, 2008-09



#### NUMBER OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS BY INCOME RANGE, 2003-04 TO 2008-09

The following animated graph shows the number of Wage and salary earners (male and female) by income range in each financial year, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (click on the play button to move through the years) . To find data for other states or territories, or for Australia, use the 'Switch Dataset' box to make your selection.



**Source(s):** South Australia; New South Wales; Victoria; Queensland; Western Australia; Tasmania; Northern Territory; Australian Capital Territory; Australia

## Western Australia



### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

On this page:

Top Average Wage and Salary Income Regions, 2008-09

Average Wage and Salary Incomes in the Perth Statistical Division, 2008-09

Number of Wage and Salary Earners by Income Range, 2003-04 to 2008-09

### TOP AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOME REGIONS, 2008-09

This section focuses on the five SLAs in Perth Statistical Division (SD) and Western Australia - Balance with the highest average Wage and salary incomes in 2008-09.

#### TOP AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 2008-09

		Average Annual Wage and Salary Income						Average Annual Growth Rate
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Top 5 SLAs (a)		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Perth SD	Peppermint Grove (S)	53,389	57,327	63,514	66,263	72,637	75,772	7.3
	Cottesloe (T)	53,117	57,052	63,083	65,692	71,793	75,347	7.2
	Nedlands (C)	52,055	54,771	57,258	60,575	62,759	69,632	6.0
	Subiaco (C)	49,813	53,261	56,063	59,699	63,651	68,931	6.7
	Claremont (T)	51,334	53,447	56,844	58,911	61,055	68,421	5.9
Perth SD		36,523	38,712	41,095	43,785	46,804	51,125	7.0

Balance of WA	Roebourne (S)	52,582	53,713	58,352	63,418	70,180	77,692	8.1
	Ashburton (S)	55,873	56,695	62,112	64,920	69,352	76,172	6.4
	East Pilbara (S)	51,221	55,716	58,422	61,555	66,469	73,524	7.5
	Port Hedland (T)	49,231	52,646	54,475	59,967	63,661	69,946	7.3
	Leonora (S)	49,458	50,746	53,179	55,875	61,171	67,413	6.4
Balance of WA (b)		34,553	36,679	38,932	41,428	44,266	48,238	6.9
<b>Western Australia</b>		<b>36,048</b>	<b>38,219</b>	<b>40,575</b>	<b>43,226</b>	<b>46,199</b>	<b>50,438</b>	<b>6.9</b>

(a) Top 5 SLAs exclude regions with less than 100 Wage and salary earners

(b) Excludes SLA 'WA Unknown'

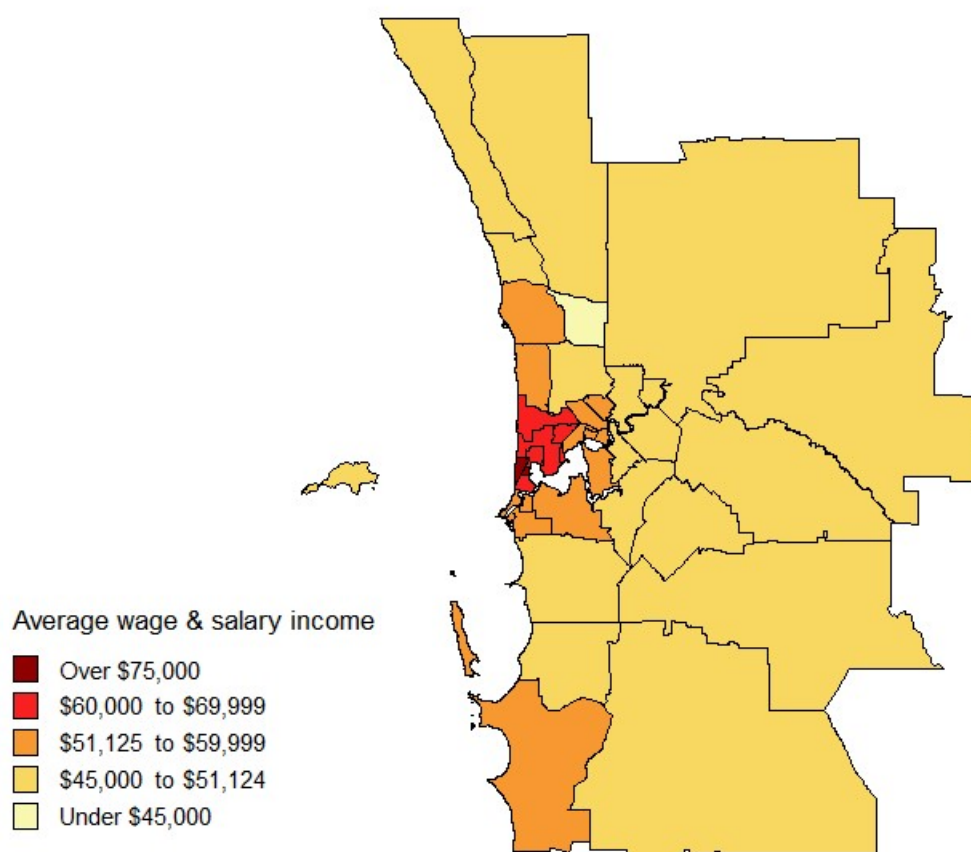
The SLAs with the highest average Wage and salary incomes are now located in the state's far north - Roebourne (S) and Ashburton (S). These areas, together with the SLAs of East Pilbara (S) and Port Hedland (T) are associated with iron ore mining, salt production, oil, natural gas, pastoralism, fishing and tourism.

Within the Perth Statistical Division, the central metropolitan areas adjoining or near the coast and/or Swan River (Peppermint Grove, Cottesloe, Nedlands, Subiaco and Claremont) recorded the highest average Wage and salary incomes.

### AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOMES IN THE PERTH STATISTICAL DIVISION, 2008-09

The following map shows geographical variations in average Wage and salary incomes within the Perth Statistical Division in 2008-09.

#### AVERAGE INCOME FROM WAGES AND SALARIES - By Statistical Local Area, Perth Statistical Division, 2008-09



### NUMBER OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS BY INCOME RANGE, 2003-04 TO 2008-09

The following animated graph shows the number of Wage and salary earners (male and female) by income range in each financial year, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (click on the play button to move through the years) . To find data for other states or territories, or for Australia, use the 'Switch Dataset' box to make your selection.



**Source(s):** Western Australia; New South Wales; Victoria; Queensland; South Australia; Tasmania; Northern Territory; Australian Capital Territory; Australia

## Tasmania



### TASMANIA

On this page:

Top Average Wage and Salary Income Regions, 2008-09

Average Wage and Salary Incomes in the Greater Hobart Statistical Division, 2008-09

Number of Wage and Salary Earners by Income Range, 2003-04 to 2008-09

### TOP AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOME REGIONS, 2008-09

This section focuses on the five SLAs in Greater Hobart Statistical Division (SD) and Tasmania - Balance with the highest average Wage and salary incomes in 2008-09.

#### TOP AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, TASMANIA, 2008-09

	Average Annual Wage and Salary Income						Average Annual Growth Rate
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Top 5 SLAs (a)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%

Greater Hobart SD	Hobart (C) - Remainder	36,520	37,633	39,398	40,834	42,204	46,574	5.0
	Hobart (C) - Inner	36,546	37,711	39,474	41,300	42,395	44,987	4.2
	Kingborough (M) - Pt A	33,810	34,987	36,049	37,709	39,038	41,623	4.2
	Clarence (C)	33,014	34,274	35,896	37,242	38,854	41,488	4.7
	Brighton (M)	30,008	31,431	32,963	34,144	35,571	37,813	4.7
Greater Hobart SD		33,021	34,118	35,660	37,065	38,563	41,435	4.6
Balance of Tas	West Coast (M)	34,377	37,512	39,599	41,213	43,988	48,472	7.1
	George Town (M) - Pt B	32,871	34,080	35,099	36,456	38,324	41,995	5.0
	Launceston (C) - Inner	32,515	33,752	35,258	36,418	37,889	40,415	4.4
	Burnie (C) - Pt B	31,287	33,086	34,718	35,911	38,048	40,379	5.2
	Burnie (C) - Pt A	31,478	32,582	33,988	35,748	38,230	40,327	5.1
Balance of Tas (b)		30,091	31,199	32,527	33,898	35,541	37,808	4.7
<b>Tasmania</b>		<b>31,358</b>	<b>32,467</b>	<b>33,903</b>	<b>35,288</b>	<b>36,874</b>	<b>39,398</b>	<b>4.7</b>

(a) Top 5 SLAs exclude regions with less than 100 Wage and salary earners

(b) Excludes SLA 'Tas Unknown'

The SLA of West Coast (M) had the highest average Wage and salary income in Tasmania in 2008-09 (\$48,472). This SLA is outside the Greater Hobart SD, and incorporates the inland population centres of Queenstown, Zeehan and Tullah. The region is known for its tourism, mining and fishing industries. It also recorded one of the State's highest average annual growth rates in Wages and salaries between 2003-04 and 2008-09 (7.1%).

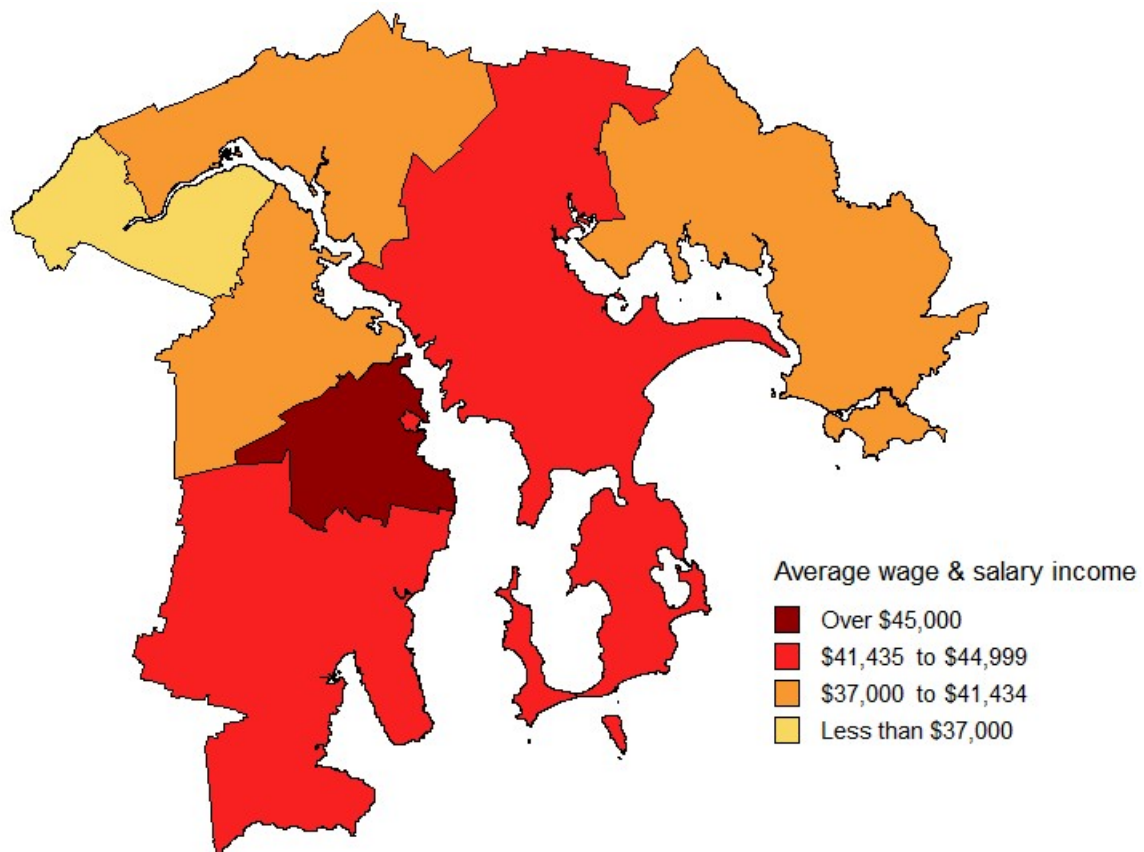
In the Greater Hobart SD, Hobart (C) - Remainder had the highest average Wage and salary income in 2008-09 (\$46,574).

#### **AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOMES IN THE GREATER HOBART STATISTICAL DIVISION, 2008-09**

The following map shows geographical variations in average Wage and salary incomes in the Greater Hobart Statistical Division in 2008-09.

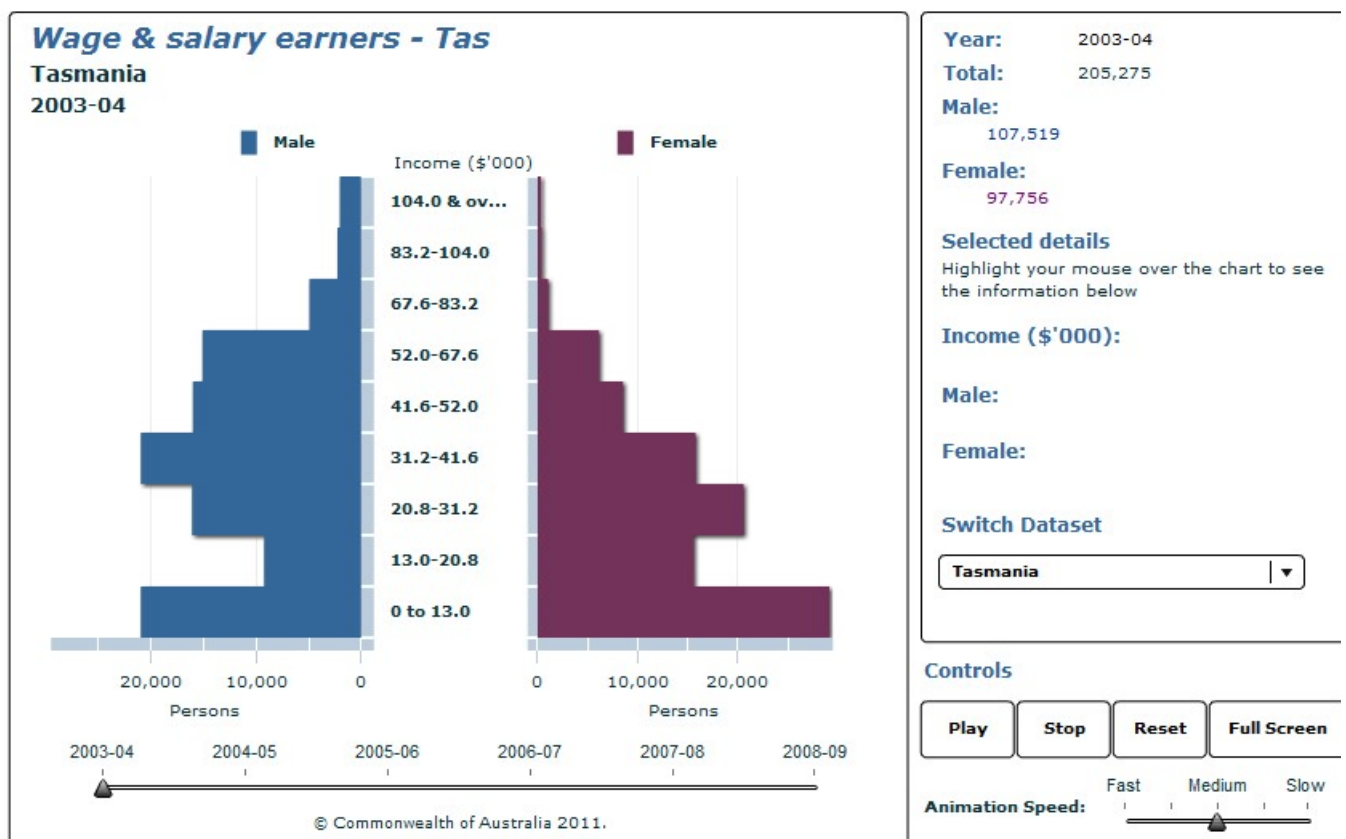
#### **AVERAGE INCOME FROM WAGES AND SALARIES - By Statistical Local Area, Greater Hobart Statistical Division, 2008-09**





## NUMBER OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS BY INCOME RANGE, 2003-04 TO 2008-09

The following animated graph shows the number of Wage and salary earners (male and female) by income range in each financial year, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (click on the play button to move through the years) . To find data for other states or territories, or for Australia, use the 'Switch Dataset' box to make your selection.



## Northern Territory



### NORTHERN TERRITORY

On this page:

Top Average Wage and Salary Income Regions, 2008-09

Average Wage and Salary Incomes in the Darwin Statistical Division, 2008-09

Number of Wage and Salary Earners by Income Range, 2003-04 to 2008-09

### TOP AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOME REGIONS, 2008-09

This section focuses on the five SLAs in Darwin Statistical Division (SD) and Northern Territory - Balance with the highest average Wage and salary incomes in 2008-09.

#### TOP AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 2008-09

		Average Annual Wage and Salary Income						Average Annual Growth Rate
		2003-04 \$	2004-05 \$	2005-06 \$	2006-07 \$	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	%
Top 5 SLAs (a)								
Darwin SD	Parap	43,393	46,665	48,707	49,278	51,193	54,235	4.6
	Ludmilla	43,360	46,678	48,656	49,189	51,097	54,151	4.5
	Fannie Bay	43,407	46,692	48,658	49,206	51,098	54,096	4.5
	Winnellie	42,853	46,243	48,341	49,093	50,976	54,093	4.8
	Bayview-Woolner	43,330	46,648	48,591	49,168	51,058	54,073	4.5
Darwin SD		39,437	42,222	43,723	45,014	47,298	50,189	4.9
Balance of NT	Alyangula	56,179	60,620	62,472	62,115	64,600	70,858	4.8
	Nhulunbuy	47,507	50,701	55,879	58,744	59,669	59,721	4.7
	West Arnhem (S) - Jabiru	41,040	46,018	49,638	50,216	53,331	54,304	5.8
	East Arnhem (S)	38,226	39,180	42,698	44,710	45,873	47,291	4.3
	Katherine (T)	36,458	38,149	39,547	40,779	41,985	45,738	4.6
Balance of NT (b)		34,466	35,983	37,618	39,278	41,251	43,986	5.0
<b>Northern Territory</b>		<b>37,665</b>	<b>40,016</b>	<b>41,589</b>	<b>43,027</b>	<b>45,216</b>	<b>48,049</b>	<b>5.0</b>

(a) Top 5 SLAs exclude regions with less than 100 Wage and salary earners

(b) Excludes SLA 'NT Unknown'

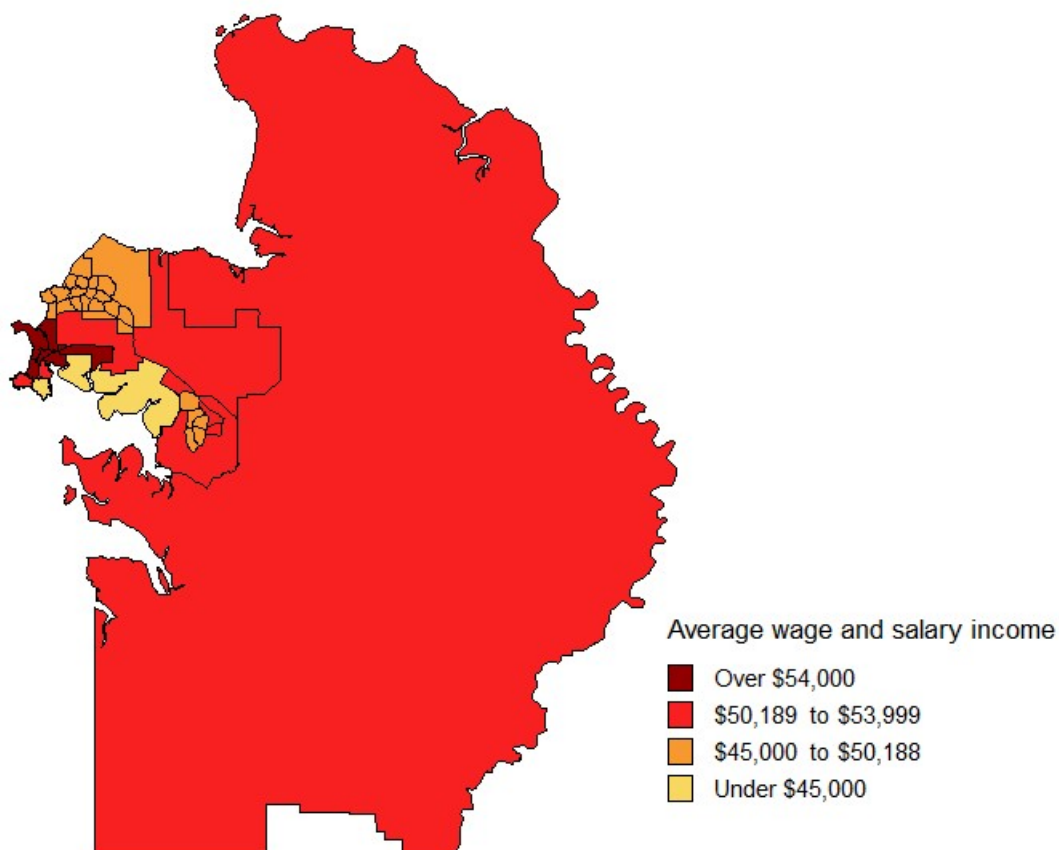
The three SLAs with the highest average annual incomes in 2008-09 were all located in remote areas outside the Darwin SD. Alyangula, a harbour on Groote Eylandt, is where ore from the island's manganese mine is exported; Nhulunbuy, on Gove Peninsula, supports an alumina refinery and bauxite mining operation; whilst West Arnhem (S) - Jabiru is an area in which uranium mining is undertaken.

Within the Darwin SD, the top five SLAs recorded very similar average annual Wage and salary incomes in 2008-09.

### AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOMES IN THE DARWIN STATISTICAL DIVISION, 2008-09

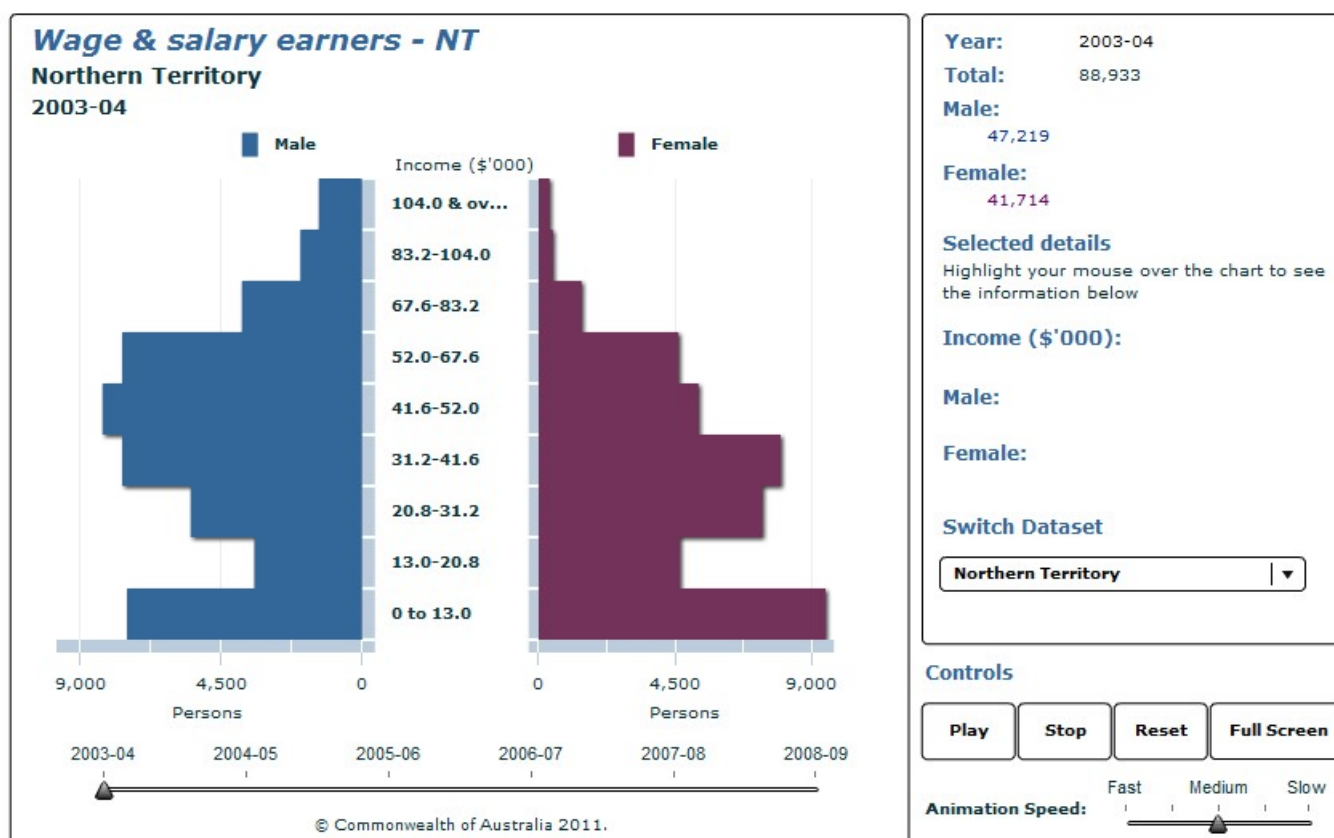
The following map shows geographical variations in average Wage and salary incomes within the Darwin Statistical Division in 2008-09.

#### AVERAGE INCOME FROM WAGES AND SALARIES - By Statistical Local Area, Darwin Statistical Division, 2008-09



## NUMBER OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS BY INCOME RANGE, 2003-04 TO 2008-09

The following animated graph shows the number of Wage and salary earners (male and female) by income range in each financial year, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (click on the play button to move through the years) . To find data for other states or territories, or for Australia, use the 'Switch Dataset' box to make your selection.



## Australian Capital Territory



### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

On this page:

Top Average Wage and Salary Income Regions, 2008-09

Average Wage and Salary Incomes in the Australian Capital Territory, 2008-09

Number of Wage and Salary Earners by Income Range, 2003-04 to 2008-09

### TOP AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOME REGIONS, 2008-09

This article focuses on the five SLAs in the Australian Capital Territory with the highest average Wage and salary incomes in 2008-09.

#### TOP AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY, 2008-09

		Average Annual Wage and Salary Income						Average Annual Growth Rate
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	%
Top 5 SLAs (a)		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Canberra SD	Kingston	52,886	56,496	58,380	60,172	63,713	67,960	5.1
	Narrabundah	52,903	56,487	58,367	60,165	63,724	67,942	5.1
	Griffith	54,612	58,907	59,189	61,048	62,715	66,472	4.0
	Forrest	54,816	59,208	59,302	61,208	62,607	66,275	3.9
	Red Hill	54,802	59,187	59,309	61,154	62,559	66,253	3.9
Canberra SD		42,841	45,932	47,071	49,122	51,393	54,756	5.0
Balance of ACT		40,061	43,031	44,503	46,868	48,848	51,918	5.3
(b)								
ACT		42,834	45,922	47,061	49,116	51,387	54,747	5.0

(a) Top 5 SLAs exclude regions with less than 100 Wage and salary earners

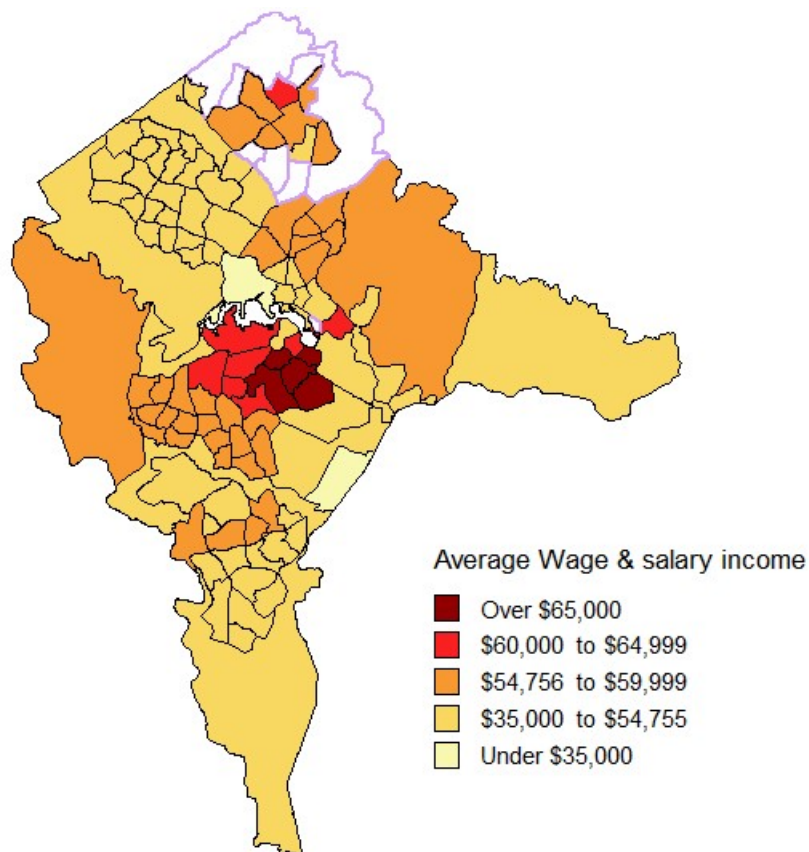
(b) Excludes SLA 'ACT Unknown'

Kingston (\$67,960) and Narrabundah (\$67,942) each recorded average annual growth rates in average Wages and salaries of 5.1% between 2003-04 and 2008-09. Griffith, Forrest and Red Hill round out the ACT's top five Wage and salary SLAs in 2008-09.

### AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOMES IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY, 2008-09

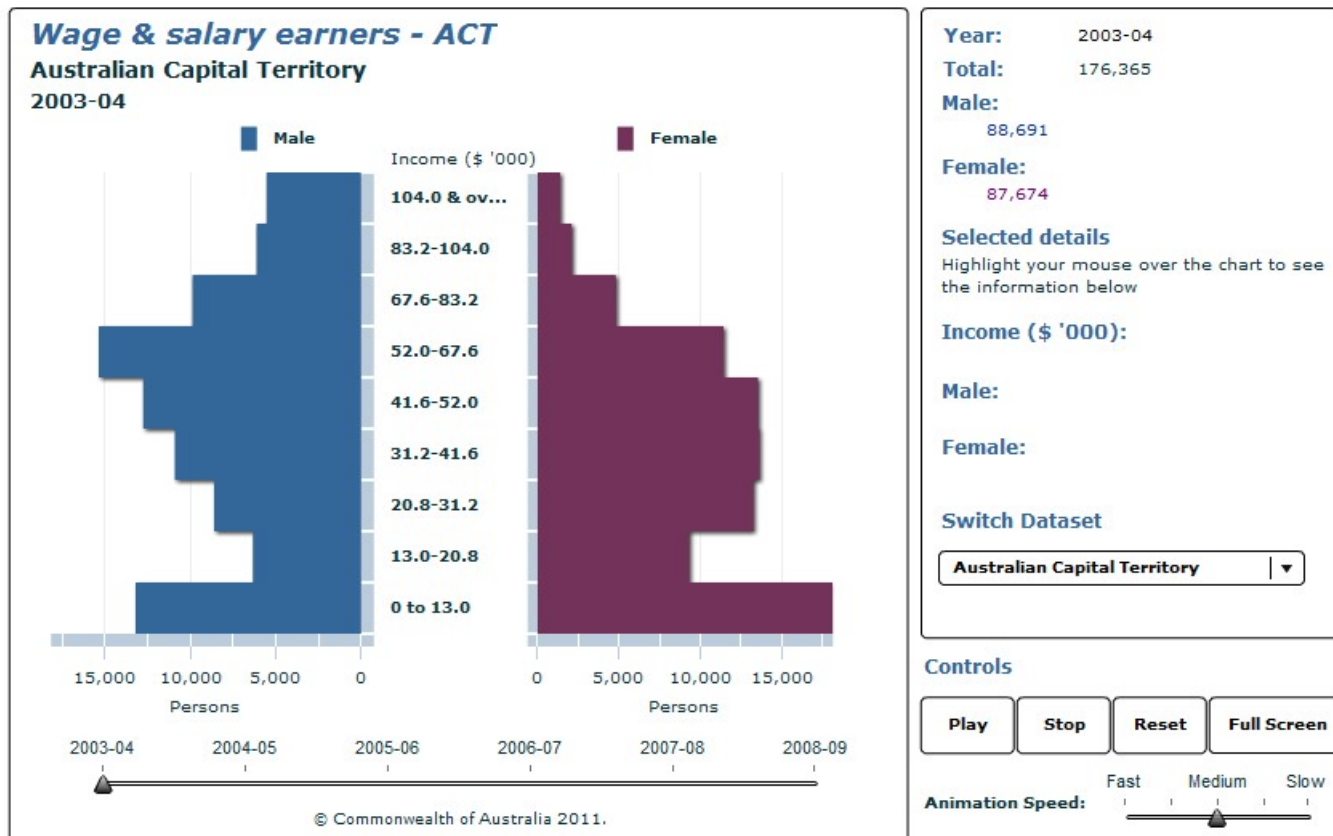
The following map shows geographical variations in average Wage and salary incomes within the ACT in 2008-09.

#### AVERAGE INCOME FROM WAGES AND SALARIES - By Statistical Local Area, Australian Capital Territory, 2008-09



#### NUMBER OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS BY INCOME RANGE, 2003-04 TO 2008-09

The following animated graph shows the number of Wage and salary earners (male and female) by income range in each financial year, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (click on the play button to move through the years) . To find data for other states or territories, or for Australia, use the 'Switch Dataset' box to make your selection.



**Source(s):** Australian Capital Territory; New South Wales; Victoria; Queensland; South Australia; Western Australia; Tasmania; Northern Territory; Australia

## About this Release

These data cubes contain various cross-tabulations of the characteristics of wage and salary earners such as age, sex, occupation and wage and salary income for the years 2003-04 to 2008-09. Most of the data in these tables are presented for each Statistical Local Area (SLA) and Local Government Area (LGA) in Australia. These data have been compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Individual Income Tax Return Database and are part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) program to increase the range of regional statistics available, particularly through the use of administrative information from other government agencies.

## History of Changes

**28/10/11**

Data Cubes replaced to correct number of wage and salary earners 2008-09, average wage and salary income 2008-09 and average annual growth rate of average income calculations in tables where applicable.

**12/8/11**

Data Cube 4A: Wage and Salary Earners, Occupation (Major groups) by Age by Income, Local Government Areas, 2008-09, has been amended to correct data in column GK 'Not Stated Total Earners (psns) and column GM 'Not Stated Total Average Income (\$)'.

## Explanatory Notes

### Explanatory Notes



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This release contains regional estimates relating to all persons aged 15 years and over who received income from Wages and salaries in the years 2003-04 to 2008-09. The previous issue in this series included estimates for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08. Estimates for the income year 2008-09 have been added to the existing series to provide six years of data from 2003-04 to 2008-09. There are breaks in series from 2006-07 to 2007-08 and from 2007-08 to 2008-09 (further details are in paragraphs 5 and 6).

**2** The estimates in this release include the number of persons, their income from Wages and salaries, and characteristics such as age, sex and occupation. Key data items in this series (number of persons, income and average income) have already been released in Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002).

**3** Data is presented at various levels of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), including Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and Local Government Areas (LGAs), in each state and territory of Australia. Paragraphs 45 to 52 contain more information about Statistical Geography.

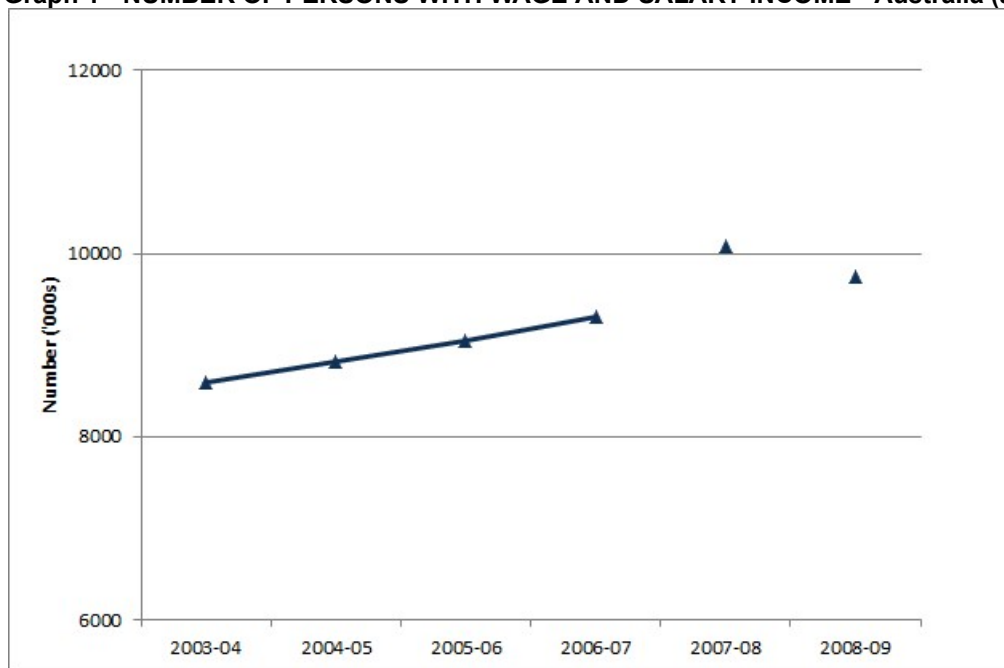
**4** These data have been compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Individual Income Tax Return Database and are part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) program to increase the range of regional statistics available, particularly through the use of administrative information collected by other government agencies. The ABS wishes to acknowledge the ATO which provided data used in compiling the statistics presented in this release.

### BREAKS IN SERIES

**5** There are two breaks in series, so some of the data is not able to be compared over time for some selected years. These breaks are associated with the one-off tax bonus introduced as part of the Economic Stimulus Package in response to the Global Financial Crisis. This one-off tax bonus was available to all individuals whose 2007-08 taxable income was \$100,000 or less, whose adjusted tax liability was greater than zero and who had filed their 2007-08 tax return by 30 June 2009. The Australian Taxation Office has reported in their *Taxation Statistics* publications that there was a 7.1% increase in individual tax lodgements for the 2007-08 financial year, in part due to individual lodgements being brought forward to access the tax bonus. This was followed by a fall of 2.8% in individual tax lodgements in 2008-09.

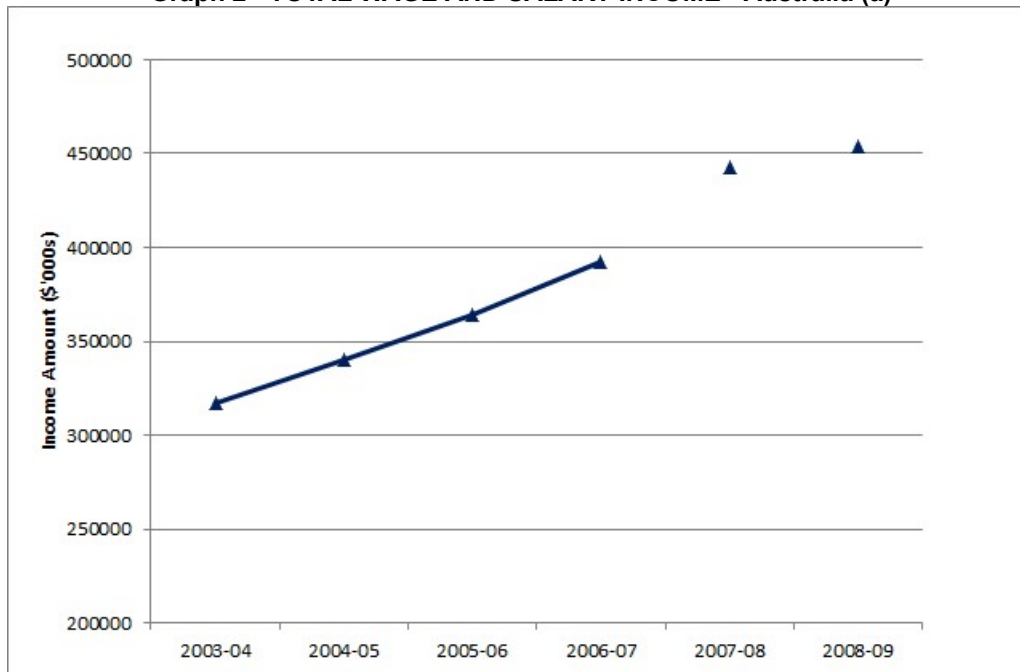
**6** In the ABS series, the number of Wage and salary earners increased by over 8%, from 9.3 million in 2006-07 to 10.1 million in 2007-08, before falling over 3% to 9.7 million in 2008-09. Income derived from Wages and salaries increased by 12.8% (\$50.3 billion) between 2006-07 and 2007-08, but rose by only 2.6% (\$11.4 billion) from 2007-08 to 2008-09. Graphs 1 and 2 show series breaks in persons and total income for Wages and salaries. There has not been a series break in average Wage and salary income in 2007-08 (Graph 3).

**Graph 1 - NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH WAGE AND SALARY INCOME - Australia (a)**



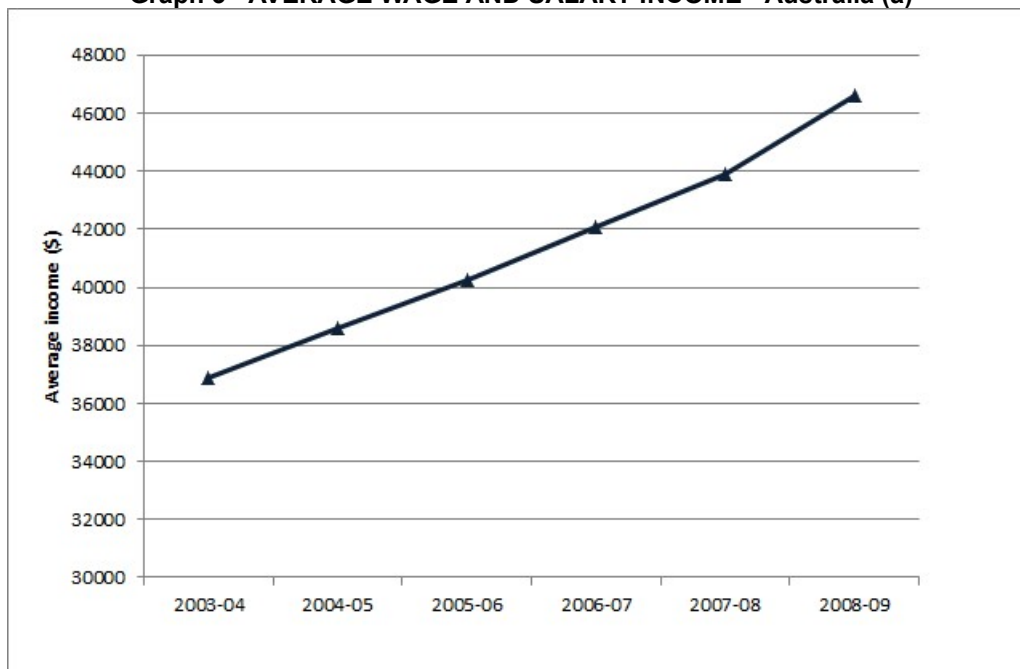
(a) Breaks in series between 2006-07 and 2007-08 and between 2007-08 and 2008-09

**Graph 2 - TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME - Australia (a)**



(a) Breaks in series between 2006-07 and 2007-08 and between 2007-08 and 2008-09

**Graph 3 - AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOME - Australia (a)**



## CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

**7** There has been a change in the classification used by the ATO to code occupation data. In 2009 the ATO changed from using the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) to the Australian and New Zealand Standard of Occupations (ANZSCO). The occupation categories for 2008-09 presented in this issue are not therefore comparable to those featured for 2003-04 to 2007-08 in previous issues of this product.

**8** Since the first issue in this series, there have been a number of other changes in the data items included in Wages and salaries, and in the data released. These changes are outlined in the following paragraphs (9 to 13).

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THIS SERIES

**9** Estimates of Wage and salary earner statistics for the years 1995-96 to 2005-06 have previously been released in an Information Paper and in Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia (cat. nos. 5673.0, 5673.0.55.001

and 5673.0.55.003).

**10** Data for 1995-96 to 2000-01 included only 'Gross Wage and salary income' and 'Allowances, tips etc' items from the individual tax return. Data for 2001-02 to 2005-06 included 'Attributable personal services income' in the definition of Wages and salaries.

**11** Estimates of Wage and salary earner statistics prior to the 2003-04 to 2006-07 issue related only to persons whose main (or principal) source of income was from Wages and salaries. From the 2003-04 to 2006-07 issue, estimates of Wage and salary earner statistics related to all persons who received income from Wages and salaries. Users should exercise caution in comparing data in the 2003-04 to 2006-07 issue and subsequent issues with data in previous issues.

**12** In this current issue (containing estimates for the years 2003-04 to 2008-09) and in the previous two issues (containing estimates for the years 2003-04 to 2006-07 and 2003-04 to 2007-08) income from Lump sums and Eligible termination payments have been included in Wages and salaries.

**13** A summary of the changes to the Wage and salary earner series since the 1995-96 financial year are presented in the table below:

Release	Reference periods	Government pensions and allowances	Wages and salaries inclusions	Number of individuals
5673.0 and 5673.0.55.001	1995-96 to 2000-01	Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gross wage and salary income</li><li>• Allowances, commissions, tips etc.</li></ul>	Individuals with positive net income
5673.0.55.003	2001-02 to 2005-06	Excluded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gross wage and salary income</li><li>• Allowances, commissions, tips etc.</li><li>• Attributed personal services income</li></ul>	Individuals with positive net income
5673.0.55.003	2003-04 to 2006-07 2003-04 to 2007-08 2003-04 to 2008-09	Excluded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gross wage and salary income</li><li>• Allowances, commissions, tips etc.</li><li>• Attributed personal services income</li><li>• Lump sums</li><li>• Eligible termination payments</li></ul>	Individuals with positive and negative net income

## CONFIDENTIALITY

**14** All individual income tax statistics provided to the ABS by the ATO have been in aggregated form only, at the SLA level. Information about individual taxpayers has not been released to the ABS.

**15** Prior to being provided to the ABS, the statistics have also been subjected to a confidentiality process that randomly adjusts table cells with small values. This includes altering some small cells to zero. Caution should therefore be exercised in deducing that there are no people in an area with certain characteristics and, in general, no reliance should be placed on table cells with small values. The confidentiality process prevents the risk of inadvertently releasing any information that may identify an individual while preserving the overall information value of the statistics. As individual table cells are adjusted in the confidentiality process, the sum of values in the cells of a table row may not equal the table row total. Caution should be exercised, in particular in using data for small regions. In datacubes 2 to 9, in some cases where there are large differences in the sum of the row cells and the row total, the row totals have been preserved but other data for that region has not been shown.

## SCOPE AND COVERAGE

**16** The scope of these data relate to persons receiving income from Wages and salaries.

**17** Wage and salary earners have been defined as:

**persons aged 15 years and over who have submitted an individual income tax return and have received wage and salary income in that financial year.**

**18** Wage and salary income, as reported on the income tax return, includes:

- gross income as shown on the 'PAYG payment summary - individual non-business';
- allowances, commissions, bonuses, tips, gratuities, consultation fees, honoraria and other payments for services. Allowances and other earnings may include car, travel or transport allowances, allowances for tools, clothing or laundry and dirt, risk, meal or entertainment allowances;
- attributed personal services income;
- eligible termination payments; and
- lump sums.

**19** It should be noted that this definition does not take account of whether Wage and salary earners work on a full-time or part-time basis. Consequently, differences in the extent of part-time work may account for some differences in the number of Wage and salary earners and average Wage and salary incomes across regions. Similarly, average Wage and salary incomes may be affected by overtime earnings and multiple job holdings.

## DATA CONSIDERATIONS

**20** There are several data considerations that users should be aware of when analysing the data. Overall, these are not viewed as being so severe that they would lead to the production of misleading information. Users are cautioned to be aware of these considerations and take them into account when analysing the results.

**21** For the purposes of providing statistical measures for the entire population, the ATO database has some limitations in its coverage. Persons who receive less than the taxable income threshold are not necessarily required to lodge a tax return. Consequently, the coverage of low income earners is not complete in ATO records.

**22** Generally, the ATO considers someone to be an Australian resident for tax purposes if they:

- have either always lived in Australia or have come to Australia to live permanently;
- have been in Australia for more than half of the financial year (unless their usual home is overseas and they don't intend to live in Australia);
- have been in Australia continuously for six months or more and for most of that time have been in the one job and living in the same place;
- are an overseas student enrolled in a course of study for more than six months duration.

## Processing of tax returns

**23** The data presented in this publication were compiled before the processing of all income tax returns for any given year may have been completed. Data provided to the ABS by the ATO are from returns processed up to 31 October, 16 months after the end of the financial year. Any returns lodged after this date are not included. Therefore, for 2008-09, returns processed after 31 October 2010 are not included. This also applies for each of the previous five years of data presented in this release, so for 2005-06 data for example, returns processed after 31 October 2007 are not included.

**24** Annual revised data is published by the ATO in *Taxation Statistics*, Personal Tax, Table 7 for selected income items. One of these items is 'Salary or wages'. Although this data item is different to the data contained in this release (as it does not include all the items listed in paragraph 18), it can be used to give an indication of the likely direction of change in the number of Wage and salary earners and total Wage and salary income as more tax returns are lodged.

**25** As an example, Table 1 below shows that for the 2003-04 income year, an additional 5% of taxpayers earning income from 'Salary or wages' lodged their income tax returns in the five years after the initial processing cut off of 31 October 2005. This translated to a further 5.2% of 'Salary or wages' income being reported.

**Table 1. Comparison of ATO Original and revised data - Number of 'Salary or wages' earners and total 'Salary or wages' income, 2003-04**

Returns lodged as at:	2003-04			
	No. Wage and Salary Earners	% Change from 31 October 2005	Total Income from Wage and Salaries \$	% Change from 31 October 2005
31 Oct 2005	8 435 280		305 009 561 208	
31 Oct 2006	8 658 015	2.6	313 953 461 851	2.9
31 Oct 2007	8 747 130	3.7	317 085 266 107	4.0
31 Oct 2008	8 793 750	4.2	318 675 652 655	4.5
31 Oct 2009	8 841 265	4.8	320 280 652 016	5.0
31 Oct 2010	8 855 570	5.0	320 772 352 004	5.2

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**26** Due to the later lodgement dates for a small portion of tax returns (as shown above) the data provided in this release under-estimates the total taxable income for a given financial year.

### Changes in taxation policy

**27** The ATO provides information annually in *Taxation Statistics* on their website about changes that may affect taxation statistics. Changes relating to personal income tax are in each edition of *Taxation Statistics*.

**28** For the income year 2008-09, a number of changes were noted in Chapter 2 of *Taxation Statistics*, including:

- the change in personal tax thresholds;
- the education tax refund which allows eligible parents to claim a refund on some educational expenses;
- the introduction of first home saver accounts;
- extra HECS-HELP benefits available to mathematics and science graduates and early childhood education teachers in specified locations;
- changes to death benefits for dependants of same sex couples;
- the introduction of the small business and general business tax break;
- the introduction of an upper income limit for certain tax offsets;
- adjustment in the Medicare levy surcharge thresholds;
- special arrangements for people affected by the bushfires and floods.

**29** The ATO has noted in Chapter 2 of *Taxation Statistics 2008-09* that 'Lodgment of individuals' tax returns fell by 2.8% for the 2008-09 income year. This decrease reflects, in part, individual lodgments brought forward for the 2007-08 income year to access the government's tax bonus payment'.

**30** For the income year 2007-08, the following changes were noted in Chapter 2 of *Taxation Statistics*:

- the additional increase in individual lodgments brought forward to access the government's tax bonus personal income tax cuts;
- the increase in the low income tax offset from \$600 in 2006-07 to \$750 in 2007-08;
- the change in access to the entrepreneur tax offset – previously only available to certain businesses within the simplified tax system it is now available to eligible small business entities with aggregated turnover less than \$75,000;
- the removal of the undeducted purchase price of an Australian pension or annuity from deduction items – it is now being accounted for and included in the tax-free component of the Australian annuities and superannuation (super) income streams;
- the removal of the age-based limits for claiming a deduction for super contributions;
- the change to super contribution limits where eligible individuals may now claim a full deduction for personal super contributions, rather than the previous limit of the first \$5,000 plus 75% of the amount above \$5,000;
- the change to super taxation where most people aged 60 and over who receive super benefits from a taxed source, the payment of a benefit as a lump sum or income stream (such as a pension) is now tax free;
- the change in the manner of reporting and taxing of eligible termination payments, and
- changes to the child care tax rebate where the 30% child care tax rebate is no longer claimed through the ATO.

**31** For the income year 2006-07, the following changes were noted in Chapter 2 of *Taxation Statistics*:

- personal income tax cuts;
- the increase in the low income tax offset from \$235 in 2005-06 to \$600 in 2006-07;
- the abolition of the part-year tax-free threshold for individuals who ceased full-time education for the first time;
- changes to the tax treatment of foreign income and some capital gains for temporary residents;
- an increase in the amount you can claim for contributions to registered political parties, independent candidates and members from \$100 to \$1,500, and
- the entitlement to claim a tax offset if you have to pay the Medicare levy surcharge as a result of you or your spouse receiving a lump sum payment in arrears.

**32** For the income year 2005-06, the following changes were noted in Chapter 2 of *Taxation Statistics*:

- personal income tax cuts;
- the introduction of new measures such as the 30% child care tax rebate, the 25% entrepreneurs' tax offset, transitional incentives to contribute to superannuation, and
- transition to retirement rules - people aged over 55 can now access superannuation benefits without having to

retire or leave their job.

**33** For the income year 2004-05, the following changes were noted in Chapter 2 of *Taxation Statistics*:

- personal income tax cuts;
- introduction of the mature age worker tax offset - workers aged 55 years and over may be entitled to the offset, based on the amount of income they received from working.

**34** For the income year 2003-04, the following change was noted in Chapter 3 of *Taxation Statistics*:

- the Super Co-contribution, which replaced the superannuation tax offset for personal superannuation contributions.

## COMPARISON WITH OTHER ABS INCOME DATA

### Survey of Income and Housing

**35** The ABS Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) collects information on sources of income, amounts received and the characteristics of persons aged 15 years and over resident in private dwellings throughout Australia. The survey was conducted every year from 1994-95 to 1997-98, and then in 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2002-03. From 2003-04, the survey is being conducted every two years. The latest survey was for 2007-08. For further information about the concepts, definitions, methodology and estimation procedures used in the SIH, refer to Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, 2005-06 (cat. no. 6553.0).

**36** Data collected from SIH can be compared to ATO data published in this release for the years 2003-04, 2005-06 and 2007-08. Comparison of these data can provide a means of assessing trends, establishing whether counts are of an expected magnitude and whether the distribution of income across the various sources is similar.

**37** SIH produces estimates of current income as well as estimates of annual income in respect to the previous financial year. Current income refers to income being received at the time the data were collected from respondents. The data used in the following comparison are based on current income estimates as these are thought to provide a better picture of income earners, are more up to date and are generally reported more accurately than previous financial year estimates.

**38** Differences exist between the three years of SIH data which should be taken into consideration, most significantly that the 2005-06 and 2007-08 SIH were run as stand alone surveys, whereas the 2003-04 SIH was integrated with the Household Expenditure Survey (HES).

**39** Table 2 presents comparable income data items from ATO data contained in this release and SIH data for 2003-04, 2005-06 and 2007-08. SIH estimates for Wage and salary income were higher than ATO income data in all three reference years.

**Table 2. COMPARISON OF ATO AND SIH WAGE AND SALARY INCOME DATA (a)(b)**

	2003-04 \$b	2005-06 \$b	2007-08 \$b
ATO	316.9	364.5	442.4
SIH (c)	341.7	402.1	513.1

a) ATO data includes data that could not be allocated to a state or territory

b) SIH data is current estimates rather than previous financial year

c) SIH data includes non cash benefits in wage and salary income

**40** The differences observed between the two sets of income data are likely to be as a result of different definitions, methodologies and reference periods.

**41** The higher SIH wage and salary estimate is in part due to the inclusion of non-cash benefits (including salary sacrificed income) into this income source. Non-cash wage and salary income is not reported on the personal income tax form and is therefore excluded from Wage and salary income data provided by the ATO.

**42** The SIH Wages and salaries estimate for 2007-08 also includes, for the first time, irregular overtime and bonuses as well as termination payments.



## Survey of Average Weekly Earnings

**43** The Survey of Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) is a quarterly sample survey of employing businesses. For further information about the concepts, definitions and methodology of AWE, refer to Labour Statistics, Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

**44** The Survey of Average Weekly Earnings collects data on average weekly earnings for full-time adult employee jobs, average weekly total earnings for all employee jobs, and average weekly ordinary time earnings for full-time adult employee jobs. Table 3 shows the ATO average Wages and salary income (derived from all Wage and salary earners and all Wage and salary income) and 'average weekly total earnings for all employees jobs' from AWE.

**Table 3. COMPARISON OF ATO AND AWE TOTAL EARNINGS (a)**

	2003-04 \$	2004-05 \$	2005-06 \$	2006-07 \$	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$
ATO	36 889	38 607	40 276	42 081	43 921	46 599
AWE	38 484	40 091	42 072	43 982	45 707	47 463

(a) Based on Original, four quarter average to May quarter

## STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY

**45** The Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) is used by the ABS for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. It is an essential reference for understanding and interpreting the geographic context of statistics published, not only by the ABS but also by other organisations, and its use enables comparability across datasets.

**46** ATO data based on postcodes has been converted to data for Statistical Local Areas (SLA) as defined by the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). Boundaries of these regions can change over time and the ABS revises and releases the ASGC annually.

**47** Data in this publication for all years are presented on boundaries in Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2008 (cat. no. 1216.0).

## Geographic correspondences

**48** The ABS uses geographic correspondences to enable the conversion of data from one type of geographic region to another. These geographic correspondences are generally used to convert data for 'non-standard areas' to data for standard areas used by the ABS. Geographic correspondences (or conversions) are expressed as conversion factors based on population.

**49** The geographic identifier on the ATO database is the postcode of the individuals' current home address at the time of completing the tax return. Consequently, postcode to SLA conversion factors have been used by the ATO to concord aggregated postcode data to estimates for Statistical Local Areas. The correspondences are based on the Estimated Resident Population. For further information see the detailed main structure of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2008 (cat. no. 1216.0).

**50** The correspondence process:

- enables the data to be more easily compared with standard ABS output and over time;
- enables the data to be output for other standard ABS geographic areas such as Statistical Divisions (SD), Statistical Subdivisions (SSD) and Local Government Areas; and
- provides flexibility so that data can be provided for the different regions of interest being studied by users of regional data (which are usually groupings of SLAs and/or LGAs).

**51** When analysing data transformed by correspondences the following limitations of this methodology need to be taken into account:

- in applying the correspondences it is assumed that the particular characteristics of any data item are uniformly distributed across a postcode area. Therefore, data transformed by correspondences may not truly reflect the distribution of the characteristics of the population. In some cases, where the same postcode is split across two or more SLAs and there are no other contributing postcodes, distinct numerical estimates will be derived but rates or averages will be identical for each SLA (as these will be equivalent to the original rate or average

of the contributing postcode);

- the conversion factors are based on total population only but have been applied across all ATO data items, i.e. the number of Wage and salary earners, Wage and salary income, total income and sex, age and occupation groups;
- some official postcodes (such as PO boxes, etc.) do not correspond to residential areas but may still have been reported under the current home address field on the income tax return. Data for these and other 'invalid' postcodes, such as those due to incorrect reporting or processing errors, have been included in an 'unknown' category for each state and territory and for Australia where the state or territory was not known; and
- data transformed by correspondences have been rounded so discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

**52** While care was taken in producing the correspondences the ABS will not guarantee the accuracy of data transformed by correspondences. Users should exercise caution when analysing data for regions with less than 100 Wage and salary earners.

## Geographic regions

**53** The statistics in this release are presented according to the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2008. Under this classification, statistical areas are defined as follows:

- **Local Government Areas (LGAs):** These areas are the spatial units which represent the geographical areas of incorporated local government councils. The various types of LGAs are cities (C), NSW local government areas (A), boroughs (B), rural cities (RC), towns (T), shires (S), district councils (DC), municipalities (M), SA regional councils (RegC), Qld regional councils (R) and SA Aboriginal councils (AC).
- **Statistical Local Areas (SLAs):** These geographical areas are in most cases identical with, or have been formed from a division of, whole LGAs. In other cases, they represent unincorporated areas. In aggregate, SLAs cover the whole of a state or territory without gaps or overlaps. In some cases legal LGAs overlap Statistical Subdivision boundaries and therefore comprise two or three SLAs.
- **Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs):** These are of intermediate size, between SLAs and SDs. In aggregate, they cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They are defined as socially and economically homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable links between the inhabitants. In the non-urban areas a SSD is characterised by identifiable links between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.
- **Statistical Divisions (SDs):** These consist of one or more SSDs. The divisions are designed to be relatively homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable social and economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.

**54** Further information concerning statistical areas, including information about recent changes to boundaries, is contained in Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2008 (cat. no. 1216.0). The ASGC also includes a complete series of maps. SLA maps for all states and territories can be found in Chapter 16 of the publication, or can be accessed individually from the Downloads tab.

**55** From July 2011 the ABS will progressively replace the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) as its geographical framework. More information about the ASGS can be obtained from the Geography portal on the ABS website.

**56** The next issue of this release, containing data for the 2009-10 income year, is expected to be released on the ASGS, at SA2 level and also LGA level. It is expected that a five year time series on the new geography will be released at this time.

## AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE

**57** The average annual growth rate is calculated as a percentage using the formula below, where  $W_0$  is the average Wages and salaries at the start of the period,  $W_n$  is the average Wages and salaries at the end of the period, and  $n$  is the length of the period (in years) between  $W_0$  and  $W_n$ .

$$[(W_n/W_0)^{1/n} - 1] \times 100$$

## FURTHER INFORMATION

**58** For further information about these statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

# Abbreviations

## ABBREVIATIONS

A	Area
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AC	Aboriginal council
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
B	Borough
cat. no.	Catalogue number
C	City
DC	District Council
FaCS	Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services
HES	Household Expenditure Survey
LGA	local government area
M	Municipality
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
PAYG	pay-as-you-go tax
Pt	part
Qld	Queensland
OUB	Own unincorporated business
R	Regional Council
RC	Rural City
RegC	Regional Council
S	Shire
S/T	state or territory
SA	South Australia
SD	statistical division
SIH	Survey of Income and Housing
SLA	statistical local area
SSD	statistical subdivision
T	Town
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

## Quality Declaration

### INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

These estimates of personal income published by the ABS are sourced from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). The ATO collects personal income tax information from the lodgement of personal income tax returns as part of their role to 'manage and shape tax, excise and superannuation systems that fund services for Australians' [Source: <http://www.ato.gov.au> 'About Us'] .

The ATO compiles a range of data from this collection for release on the ATO website. An extract of personal income tax is provided to the ABS on an annual basis under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ABS and the ATO.

All individual income tax statistics are provided to the ABS by the ATO in aggregated form only, at the Statistical Local Area (SLA) level. Information about individual taxpayers has not been released to the ABS.

For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

### RELEVANCE

Personal income data are produced at regional (small area) level to provide valuable information about regional economies and the income of individuals resident in regions. This annual regional level income data is not available from existing ABS censuses and surveys.

The scope of the personal income tax data includes individuals who submit an individual income tax return to the Australian Tax Office.

Data items for individuals include number of 'taxable' and 'non-taxable individuals', and 'taxable income'.

The main statistical releases from ATO personal income tax data are:

1. Counts of taxable and non-taxable individuals, and amount of taxable income;
2. Number of persons and amount of income from Wages and salaries, Own unincorporated business, Investment, Superannuation and annuities, Other income (excluding Government pensions and allowances), Total income (excluding Government pensions and allowances);
3. Number of Wages and salary earners, income earned and Average Wage and salary income by various cross-classifications (age, sex, occupation and income range).

Data for income categories in 2. and 3. above are aggregated from items in the individual income tax return, and are selected to conform as closely as possible to ABS Income Standards.

These statistical releases are presented at the following levels of geography as in the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC): Statistical Local Area; Statistical Subdivision; Statistical Division; Local Government Area; state/territory, Australia.

Occupation data for Wage and salary earners is presented using the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).

## **TIMELINESS**

Individuals may lodge income tax returns in respect of each financial year (1 July to 30 June). Personal income tax data is provided to the ABS approximately 22 months after the income year. Data are taken from an annual extraction from the ATO database as at 31 October each year (16 months after the income year). For example, data for the 2008-09 financial year was extracted as at 31 October 2010 and provided to the ABS in April 2011. Data are released annually by the ABS.

## **ACCURACY**

Personal income tax data is derived from information contained in personal income tax returns lodged with the Australian Taxation Office. For the purposes of providing statistical measures for the entire population, the ATO database has some limitations in its coverage. Persons who receive less than the taxable income threshold are not necessarily required to lodge a tax return. This can include persons who derive their income from government pensions and allowances. Consequently, the coverage of low income earners, including people receiving government pensions and allowances is not complete in ATO records. In addition, a number of Commonwealth of Australia government pension, benefit and allowance payments are exempt from income tax and are therefore not required to be included in tax returns.

Data is provided by the ATO before the processing of all income tax returns for any given year may have been completed. Data provided to the ABS by the ATO are from returns processed up to 31 October, 16 months after the end of the financial year. It is estimated that approximately an additional 3% of taxpayers lodge their income tax returns in the twelve months after the initial processing cut off each year and approximately 5% of taxpayers lodge their income tax returns in the three years following the processing cut off. This means that data provided to the ABS slightly under-estimates the number of income earners and the total income earned.

Prior to being provided to the ABS, the statistics have also been subjected to a confidentiality process that randomly adjusts table cells with small values. This includes altering some small cells to zero. Caution should therefore be exercised in deducing that there are no people in an area with certain types of income and, in general, no reliance should be placed on table cells with small values.

## **COHERENCE**

Personal income tax statistics can be impacted by changes to Tax legislation. The ATO outlines any such changes in their annual release of 'Taxation Statistics' on the ATO website.

Data for income categories described above (see Relevance) are aggregated from items in the individual income

tax return, and are selected to conform as closely as possible to ABS Income Standards. There have been several changes, reflected in data released for 2001-02 to 2005-06, and for 2003-04 to 2008-09:

Release	Reference periods	Changes to Wages and salaries
6524.0 and 6524.0.55.001 5673.0 and 5673.0.55.001	1995-96 to 2000-01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gross wage and salary income</li> <li>• Allowances, commissions, tips etc.</li> </ul>
6524.0.55.002 5676.0.55.003	2001-02 to 2005-06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gross wage and salary income</li> <li>• Allowances, commissions, tips etc.</li> <li>• Attributed personal services income</li> </ul>
6524.0.55.002 5673.0.55.003	2003-04 to 2006-07 2003-04 to 2007-08 2003-04 to 2008-09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gross wage and salary income</li> <li>• Allowances, commissions, tips etc.</li> <li>• Attributed personal services income</li> <li>• Lump sums</li> <li>• Eligible termination payments</li> </ul>

### Breaks in Series

Changes in taxation policy can occur in any income year and can, for example, influence whether an individual needs to lodge a tax return, and what is required to be reported on the tax form.

There are a number of breaks in series. One break in series was associated with the introduction of a one-off tax bonus introduced as part of the Economic Stimulus Package in response to the Global Financial Crisis. This one-off tax bonus was available to all individuals whose 2007-08 taxable income was \$100,000 or less, whose adjusted tax liability was greater than zero and who had filed their 2007-08 tax return by 30 June 2009. The Australian Taxation Office has reported in their *Taxation Statistics* publications that there was a 7.1% increase in individual tax lodgements for the 2007-08 financial year, in part due to individual lodgements being brought forward to access the tax bonus. This was followed by a fall of 2.8% in individual tax lodgements in 2008-09. In the ABS series, total income rose by \$52.1 billion from 2006-07 to 2007-08, but rose by only \$12.3 billion from 2007-08 to 2008-09. The number of individuals in the ABS series fell from 12.4 million in 2007-08 to 12.0 million in 2008-09.

Other breaks in series were associated with a change to taxation legislation regarding superannuation which took effect from 1 July 2007. This change means that people aged 60 years and over who receive superannuation income in the form of a lump sum or income stream (such as a pension) from a taxed source, will receive that income tax free. Therefore, if a person has no other income, or their total income is below the tax-free threshold, or any tax payable is mitigated by a tax offset (such as Senior Australian Tax Offset), then this person will not be required to lodge a tax return. In the ABS income series for superannuation and annuities, fewer persons reported income from this income source for the 2007-08 income year onwards. The break affects all Superannuation series (persons, income and average income).

Further information about these breaks in series can be obtained from the Explanatory Notes in the 2008-09 issue of this release.

### Changes in Occupation Classification in 2008-09

In addition to the break in series associated with the introduction of the one-off tax bonus, there has been a change in the classification used by the ATO to code occupation data. In 2009 the ATO moved from using the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) to the Australian and New Zealand Standard of Occupations (ANZSCO). The occupation categories for 2008-09 presented in this issue are not therefore comparable to those featured for 2003-04 to 2007-08 in previous issues of this product.

### Other ABS Data

Other ABS sources of income data are:

- the Survey of Income and Housing;

- the Survey of Average Weekly Earnings;
- the Census of Population and Housing.

The ABS Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) collects information on sources of income, amounts received and the characteristics of persons aged 15 years and over resident in private dwellings throughout Australia. Data collected from SIH can be compared to ATO personal income tax data published in Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas (cat no. 6524.0.55.002) and Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas (cat no. 5673.0.55.003) at the Australia level. Small area estimates are not released from the SIH. Comparison of these series for Australia can provide a means of assessing trends, establishing whether counts are of an expected magnitude and whether the distribution of income across the various sources is similar. The ATO personal income tax data contained in this release is generally consistent in magnitude with the estimates derived from the ABS Survey of Income and Housing at the Australia level.

The Survey of Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) is a quarterly sample survey of employing businesses. It collects data on average weekly earnings for full-time adult employee jobs, average weekly total earnings for all employee jobs, and average weekly ordinary time earnings for full-time adult employee jobs. Small area estimates are not released from AWE. The ATO Average Wage and Salary income as presented in Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas (cat no. 5673.0.55.003) can be compared at the Australia level with the 'average weekly total earnings for all employees jobs' from the survey of Average Weekly Earnings. These two series items are generally consistent in magnitude at the Australia level.

Income data is also available every five years in the Census of population and housing. The Census provides total income for households and individuals. Data are available for a range of small areas.

## INTERPRETABILITY

Taxable income is calculated on the personal income tax as total income or loss minus total deductions.

Personal income tax data releases all contain detailed Explanatory Notes that provide information on scope and coverage, confidentiality, changes to the data over time, geographical presentation of the data, classifications and other technical aspects associated with these statistics.

## ACCESSIBILITY

All personal income tax data provided to the ABS from ATO, is released to the ABS website in:

- National Regional Profile (contains Taxation Statistics, income estimates by source and Wage and salary earners statistics in html web pages, excel spreadsheets, SuperTABLE datacubes and a .csv file)
- Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas (cat no: 6524.0.55.002) - contains a summary main features, excel spreadsheets and SuperTABLE data cubes.
- Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas (5673.0.55.003) - contains a summary main features, excel spreadsheets and SuperTABLE data cubes.

## Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

Data Cubes 1A and 1B

Data Cubes have been replaced to correct number of wage and salary earners 2008-09, average wage and salary income 2008-09 and average annual growth rate of average income calculations.

Data Cubes 2 to 9

Data Cubes have been replaced to correct number of wage and salary earners 2008-09, average wage and salary income 2008-09 and data has been suppressed for a small number of regions.

Please see Explanatory Notes for further information.